



Daily Report

Latin America

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Thursday
23 May 1991

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FSLN, FMLN Leaders Meet in Managua

*PA2205234891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2200 GMT 22 May 91*

[Text] Managua, 22 May (NOTIMEX)—The leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of El Salvador and the opposition Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] met today to exchange views on the current situation in Central America.

According to an official communique, the meeting occurred "within the framework of the peace negotiations that are taking place under the auspices of the United Nations" in order to find a solution to the conflict. The peace negotiations are scheduled to resume in Caracas on 25 May.

Commanders Jorge Shafik Handal and Joaquin Villalobos attended the meeting for the FMLN, while former president Daniel Ortega, Bayardo Arce, and Henry Ruiz represented the FSLN. This is the first high-level meeting between FMLN and FSLN representatives since the conflict that emerged in January over the revelations about the illegal theft of anti-aircraft missiles from the Sandinist People's Army. The missiles were to be used by the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Representatives of the FMLN General Command met this week in Managua with Salvadoran labor and political leaders in an attempt to "reach agreements and find a solution to the conflict," said Handal.

"We are not dealing with the attainment of agreements only in El Salvador, but at the regional level," added Handal.

Meanwhile, Commander Joaquin Villalobos referred to the common objectives of "both revolutionary organizations to attain democratization and social justice in Central America."

Villalobos concluded: "This is the first time in more than 10 years that we have had the opportunity to publicly state before the Nicaraguan people that the FSLN has never failed us."

Deputy Foreign Ministers' Meeting Suspended

*PA2205193591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1815 GMT 22 May 91*

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Central American deputy foreign ministers' meeting scheduled to begin today in Antigua Guatemala was suspended at the last minute, it has been reported by diplomatic sources.

The Guatemalan Government announced in a brief communique that the deputy foreign ministers' meeting to prepare the foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for 24 and 25 May was suspended due to unforeseen circumstances.

The weekend meeting was summoned to analyze the reactivation of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), proposed by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano.

In addition, the foreign ministers must prepare the agenda that will be discussed by the Central American presidents during their next summit, scheduled for July in El Salvador.

Cuba

Commentator Assesses U.S. 'Drug Czar' Tour

PA2205123991 Havana Radio Havana Cuba
in Spanish 0129 GMT 22 May 91

["Our America" commentary read by Julio Dominguez]

[Text] With the purpose of reviewing the implementation of the U.S. strategy to fight drug trafficking, Robert Martinez, the new chief of the U.S. antinarcotics agency, toured countries that included Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, and Panama. Robert Martinez, or Bob as he is known, went to Latin America in the post to which he was designated last March to replace William Bennett, from whom he inherited the odd appellation of drug czar because of the vast powers given him by President George Bush.

The tour must have made Martinez notice that in the nations he visited there was no unanimous opinion regarding the U.S. antinarcotics policy. In at least three countries, there were events that evidenced this. In Colombia, where President Cesar Gaviria is carrying out a special plan on the extradition issue, the chief of state asked Martinez not to aim guns against the coca leaf cultivators and that if there is repression against the drug traffickers, it must also be directed against the drug consumers and those who produce the necessary substances for cocaine manufacture.

As is known, President Gaviria passed a law that provides that drug traffickers who surrender voluntarily will not be extradited to the United States. Although Martinez said that Washington supports that strategy, he insisted that extradition is the most effective instrument for dealing with the mafia. Consequently, in Colombia there is seemingly no overall agreement between the U.S. envoy and local authorities.

In Peru, the visit of the antidrug czar coincided with the unexpected signing of the antinarcotics agreement between the South American country and the United States. This gave rise to a stormy parliamentary debate that extended to diverse political sectors. Although Peru will obtain \$160 million from the United States to fight drug trafficking, the fact the agreement was signed without being submitted to prior consultation was strongly criticized. According to legislators of several political parties, it closed the door to the possibility of modifying the text in a public discussion, and it involved national security issues.

In Bolivia, the third country that, together with Peru and Colombia, appears as the largest producer of coca leaves, Robert Martinez eluded the thorny topic of the militarization of the antinarcotics struggle promoted by Washington and only praised the joint efforts of the two nations.

Some parliamentarians, however, noted that Martinez should realize that Bolivia needs fewer bullets and more

economic aid, fewer military instructors and more markets for their export products. They referred in this way to the fact that the drug-trafficking problem should have essentially economic solutions, something which President Jaime Paz Zamora reiterated during a meeting with peasant coca leaf farmers.

In Panama, the U.S. envoy in charge of the antinarcotics struggle asked Guillermo Endara to assess their needs in terms of equipment and weapons to fight drug traffickers.

Apparently the objective of the visit of the antidrug czar to Latin American countries was to remind the governments that the U.S. policy in matters of drug trafficking is aimed at eliminating the coca plantations through a strong U.S. military presence, a proposal that received vast popular rejection.

Cuban-Angolan Joint Statement on Troops Return

FL2305134791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] GRAMMA has published a Cuban-Angolan joint statement which was simultaneously made public today in Havana and Luanda. The statement details the fulfillment of each stage of the agenda for the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from the People's Republic of Angola as agreed at the meeting in New York on 22 December 1988 and as ratified by the UN's Verification Mission. It was pointed out that as a goodwill gesture 3,000 soldiers were withdrawn ahead of schedule between January and April of 1989.

The Cuban and Angolan Governments are pleased with the strict fulfillment of every deadline and soldier withdrawal quota as mandated by the agenda. As of 15 May, 94 percent of the internationalist combatants have returned as well as the equipment and armaments belonging to the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The joint statement by the governments of the Republic of Cuba and the People's Republic of Angola points out that in light of the independence of Namibia and the results of the first talks of the genuine government of Angola with UNITA, and to offer a constructive gesture for peace and as a testimony of confidence on the irreversible process of normalization, it was decided to push ahead with the completion of the agenda and conclude by 25 May the return of the 2,910 Cuban internationalist soldiers that still remain in Angola.

This action fulfills in an exemplary fashion—36 days ahead of schedule—the agreement contracted with the United Nations and the international community. Cuba and Angola have officially announced this decision to the secretary general of the United Nations and all the parties involved in this issue with the hope that this gesture might contribute to end all foreign intervention, strengthen stability, promote the reconstruction of the People's Republic of Angola, and develop an atmosphere of peace and mutual respect in southern Africa.

Reportage on Soldiers Returning From Angola

FL2205132791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Further flights have brought home another group of internationalist combatants. Hector Rodriguez Llompart [minister president of the National Bank of Cuba], expressed with these words of welcome the feeling of the Cuban people.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Dear internationalist combatants who returned to the sacred soil of the fatherland with your heads held high, your chests filled with medals, and bringing home the defeated the glorious flag of the lone star; your people embrace you, you are genuine descendants of Cespedes and of those who together with him made the Demajagua bell vibrate to announce to the world their commitment to freedom at any cost. You are descendants of the Moncada fighters. You are descendants of the Sierra fighters. [end recording]

The ceremony was also attended by Julian Rizo Alvarez, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Brigadier Generals Lino Carreras Rodriguez and Pedro Rodriguez Vargas, of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior, respectively.

More Soldiers Return

FL2205125891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Another group of internationalist combatants has returned to our country after the victorious fulfillment of their mission in the People's Republic of Angola. They were greeted by Julian Rizo Alvarez, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, Rafael Sed Perez, president of Intur, and Brigadier General Lino Carreras Rodriguez, as well as representatives from political and mass organizations.

Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, said in his closing speech that the internationalist combatants offered their example and love in African lands and now will continue to develop the economy and defense of Cuba with the same fervor.

* Practice of Bribery, Sanctions Discussed

91CA0116A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish
No 9, 1 Mar 91 pp 28-31

[Article by Claribel Terre Morell: "Eve's Other Apple"]

[Excerpt] "Is bribery practiced in Cuba?"

In Central Park, Mario Rivas drops his newspaper on the bench and shouts in astonishment: "Don't talk to me about counterrevolution! We have nothing like that here!"

"Are you sure?"

"Listen, young man! Either you shut up or I am going to call the police!"

Five minutes later, more calmly now, he asks in a low voice: "If I give the taxi driver 10 pesos to take me somewhere, am I bribing him?"

The affirmative answer makes him doubt and reflect.

"Everyone does it. Perhaps it is wrong, but it is not as serious as what you see in films from 'the outside,' people giving millions to a guy for something. Look, if there is bribery here, it is small-time."

Unfortunately, small-time bribery, as Mario calls it, is beginning to be somewhat frequent in Cuba in the economic area and, more specifically, the services. Those who engage in it usually justify their actions by real scarcities and the need to resolve certain problems. They do not even stop to think whether or not it is a crime. The figures cited vary: 1 peso, 2, 5, 70, or more, all depending on the urgency or monetary power of the person doing the bribing.

The same thing happens whether it be a nightclub or boarding house, corner pizza parlor or gas station.

It would be inadmissible to engage in generalizations, although it is a problem we cannot forget, and to ignore it would mean facing cases of greater implications such as those seen in Operation Maceta.

Antillana Steel worker Mariano Casanova thinks the lack of supervision is the only cause resulting in such actions.

"There is too much 'leniency' in some factories and industries. Things are lost and later the guilty party does not have to answer for them. This is where the 'exploiters' come in, selling privately in the street things the state has purchased and often using the money to open the way for others like themselves."

This is also the opinion of Cristobal Hernandez, a lathe operator, while Carmelina Garcia, a teacher's assistant, thinks it is a bad thing that can have a solution. Susana Oviedo, architect, says all those who foster it must be eliminated.

However, Tomas Hernandez, gastronomical worker, thinks that bribes are often confused with tips: "We Cubans like to give away money!"

"What do you expect, if you gave it to me as a tip?" was the answer of a La Monumental landlady as she tried to hide a 10-peso note a man had just given her as he went to the head of the line and disappeared into one of the rooms.

"I am not a criminal!" shouted a taxi driver in his own defense, having just blatantly offered: "For 5 pesos over the price, I will take you anywhere you want to go!"

"Necessity forces one to take drastic action!" is the excuse given by one retired lady who bought condensed

milk from a grocer at a price far beyond her reach. "Thank heavens he can help me out," she says, looking for something to give him to make him happy.

A friend of mine is convinced she is very lucky. Her car was fixed at the shop the same day she took it in. The mechanic asked her for 50 pesos for the favor, which she gave him.

"It is not my fault! If I do not, I will wait forever!"

"Did you bribe him?"

"Of course, but what do you expect me to do?" she asked, trying to justify her action.

Actually, many allow it to happen before their very eyes and I do not know which is worse: doing it or allowing it to happen. If one engages in bribery, one is helping to warp someone else and one becomes warped oneself. The one who kills the cow is just as guilty as the one who tolerates the crime, runs an old saying, valid for this entire matter.

Concerning the need for facing up to corruption, crime, and antisocial conduct, of which bribery is but one manifestation, the preliminary process leading to the Fourth Congress of the PCC [Cuban Communist Party] speaks eloquently.

Only a few days ago, the central report to the Evaluation Assembly on Work, Renewal, and Ratification of Party Mandates in the capital, published in the newspaper TRIBUNA in Havana, expressed the vital need to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles and pretexts standing in the way of the action of mass organizations and particularly the party, preventing the diversion of resources, the lack of organization and control, and any unification of efforts in the fight against wrongdoing.

Questions to the Prosecutor

Rafael Pino Becquer, deputy provincial prosecutor in Ciudad de La Habana, believes in the possibility of eliminating corruption when it occurs in any kind of society, including socialist society, when a series of factors such as lack of control and negligence are involved.

Questioned about the specificities of bribery as a crime, he elaborated:

"Bribery is not a typical crime, but rather, comes under the crime of subornation in the Penal Code.

"According to Articles 151, 152, and 153, such a crime occurs when a public official receives, either directly or through a third or intermediate party, any gift, favor, present, or object for the purpose of executing or not executing an act inherent in his office. Such a crime has three variations, depending on whether he receives, accepts, or requires.

"Its definition also includes an employee (for example, taxi drivers, gastronomical workers, road workers, and so on) who abuse the post or assignment entrusted to them by the government.

"For example, it is the task of the taxi driver to carry passengers, for which purpose the government assigns him a wage. He violates no law by rendering the service, but does so when he receives an amount of money larger than that stipulated.

"Another example: A butcher can violate controls, steal a chicken, perhaps two or three, and resell them at a higher price, but if he does so on a large scale, it is because someone else is involved. Sometimes there is a chain involving other employees and officials. It is suddenly not so simple as when you think you are hurting no one by offering him more money for that chicken."

"Are those who think necessity is an attenuating circumstance right?"

"No. At the present time, it is an aggravating circumstance. To take advantage of resources acquired by the government through so much effort in order to illegally increase private assets is an act that undermines the legal, normal elements of society."

"Some think that when bribery is done on a small scale, it is not a crime and if it is, it is not as serious as when officials of a certain rank engage in the large-scale diversion of resources, and so on."

"Morally, the two are the same."

"And legally? What kind of sanction can be imposed?"

"A public official who holds a post in the name of the government and receives a bribe can be sentenced to three to eight years in prison.

"If he only accepted it, from one to three years, and if he demanded it, the penalty is greater, from seven to 15 years.

"The sentence may be from three to eight years for low-ranking officials or employees, provided the act is not a major crime.

"The person proposing the bribe is also given a penalty of from one to three years."

"Bribery is actually one of the most negative forms of antisocial conduct?"

"All forms of conduct that violate the law for the purpose of personal profit or the solution of individual problems by illegal means are equally repudiable and we cannot stop our fight to eliminate them when to do so is a guarantee of the preservation of our society." [passage omitted]

Haiti

Minister of Justice Dismissed, Successor Named

FL2105144591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1600 GMT 20 May 91

[Excerpts] A new minister of justice has been appointed. Lawyer Bayard Vincent was fired and replaced by lawyer Carl Auguste, one of President Aristide's judicial advisers. He should be installed this morning. Lawyer Bayard Vincent, whose appointment was very controversial because of his political past under the Duvalier regime, will be accused of facilitating the departure of several individuals wanted by the Justice Department. It is to be noted that Bayard Vincent, in answering senators' questions on 16 May had stated that the Justice Department had done its job by issuing summons to appear and arrest warrants and that it remained for the police to play their part. Lawyer Bayard Vincent also stated that he totally ignored the presence in Miami of former General Williams Regala, who has an arrest warrant out on him. Let us listen to the statements by Bayard Vincent in the Senate on 16 May.

[Begin reporter recording] There are no political prisoners under the Aristide-Preval government, according to Minister of Justice Bayard Vincent. This statement was made on 16 May in the Senate following a question by a legislator regarding the Lafontant affair. According to Bayard Vincent, Dr. Roger Lafontant and his group who were arrested for their part in a bid for power on 7 January will be presented to their judges on an unspecified date. The person in charge of justice has already, according to his own statements, tackled other files, among them, the Jean-Claude Duvalier file, which is now in another firm's hands because the previous firms were not able to recover the funds stolen by the Duvaliers and their like. [passage omitted]

Vincent stated that his position was not to dispense justice but rather to have the legal aspects respected. Minister Bayard Vincent mentioned the warrants already issued against William Regala. According to Senator Clark Parent, the former Governmental National Council second-in-command has allegedly been held for the past 24 hours at the Immigration Office in Miami. Lawyer Vincent was not able to confirm or deny this information. The minister of justice also mentioned the detention conditions for the Haitian prisoners, especially in Saint Marc and in the National Penitentiary. On the following day, lawyer Bayard Vincent was fired and replaced by lawyer Carl Auguste. [end recording]

Preval Discusses Dismissal

FL2105232291 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil
Network in Creole 1100 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpts] Changes made at the Justice Ministry dominate political news. The new minister is lawyer Carl Auguste, replacing Minister Bayard Vincent, who was

fired over the weekend. In statements after the installation 20 May, the prime minister described the judicial system as completely corrupt and needing new blood. This explains the reforms made in the Justice Department. Martine has more details on that.

[Begin recording] [Martine] The head of the country's government, agronomist Rene Preval, installed lawyer Carl Auguste as the new justice minister on 20 May, replacing lawyer Bayard Vincent, who was fired on 17 May. In a speech after Auguste's installation, the prime minister said that justice is one of three cornerstones of the government. Justice cannot be half administered. We cannot content ourselves with crippled justice involving bias and partisanship. It must be total and complete justice, where all citizens remain alert all of the time. [passage omitted]

The new justice minister said the people are thirsty for justice and that they may rely on him, at the same time providing their own collaboration. The justice peddlers have invaded the courts. We must therefore change all the old habits and replace all corrupt judges. This job is a delicate one, as there are not enough personnel to enforce it, not to mention a pervading abdication of responsibility that prevents the reform from moving ahead. [passage omitted]

The outgoing minister, lawyer Bayard Vincent, considers the choice a good one. In the beginning, when the going is difficult, progress must be made little by little, he said. The new minister said that the battle will continue in the streets beside the people. [passage omitted]

After the installation of Carl Auguste, the prime minister granted the press an interview in which he said it was to give Justice a new face that lawyer Bayard Vincent was dismissed. He did intimate, however, that shady operations, which the government will not tolerate, had occurred. The prime minister announced that lawyer Antony Alouidor was arrested after allegedly asking the justice of the peace of Delmas to ignore an arrest warrant against Dieumaitre Lucas. Let us listen to an excerpt of this interview.

[Rene Preval] We have intervened. We think it is time to give new blood to the ministry.

[Unidentified journalist] Prime Minister, there are people who believe that former Minister Vincent's dismissal has to do with the Antony Alouidor case. What can you say about that?

[Preval] If you were there, you would have noted that in the speech Bayard Vincent just made, he spoke of smears. There are mistakes, he said, allegedly made by me, that neither the people nor the rest of the government will accept.

This does not mean the minister has been guilty of illegal acts. I think we all acknowledge the fight he waged, but there are allegations we cannot justify, that cannot justify keeping a person in a given position doing the same job.

We refer specifically to the Antony Alouidor case, which is linked to the case of Judge Emmanuel Vital, who had the responsibility of arresting certain people, and who did not arrest them. We believe that in this situation, the problem was a lack of vigilance.

[Unidentified journalist] Can you reveal the names of these people?

[Preval] I can tell you the facts, but justice must still have the last word. There was an arrest warrant issued against Dieumaitre Lucas. The warrant against Dieumaitre Lucas did not result in arrest. While we were trying to find out why the warrant did not end in arrest, we learned that lawyer Vital, who was responsible for delivering the warrant, left it outstanding for two days, then withdrew it, saying he was ordered to do so by a higher authority. For days, for almost a month and a half, we had been wondering why Dieumaitre Lucas had not been arrested. Then the police told us that they did not have a warrant for his arrest. The warrant had been outstanding for only two days when the judge himself withdrew it.

[Unidentified journalist] What other cases?

[Preval] When we asked the public prosecutor to take care of that case, the judge was fired and brought to the public prosecutor's office. Then it happened that the judge disappeared from the public prosecutor's custody. We therefore believe there was, if not complicity, at least negligence, and as we do not want to let any of these things slide by, the public prosecutor now must answer as to why he allowed the judge to get away. [end recording]

Public Prosecutor Dismissed, Judges Arrested

FL2105132991 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Another measure taken by the Aristide-Preval government over the weekend is the dismissal of the public prosecutor, lawyer Antony Alouidor. The former prosecutor is allegedly at the National Penitentiary together with other members of the Justice Department, including two judges involved in money and drug dealings and one lawyer. Another magistrate, Emmanuel Vital, who worked at the Delmas courthouse was also arrested on 17 May but was able to escape from prison. He was temporarily being held at the Public Prosecutor's Department in Port-au-Prince.

Preval Describes Corruption; Promises Crackdown

FL2305011291 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 May 91

[Excerpts] Justice is war against corruption. Prime Minister Rene Preval said he is determined to clear Haitian Justice of its corrupted members in order to restore it to health and equity. No one will be exempt, said Rene Preval, as a way of explaining the dismissal, followed by the detention, of government prosecutor Antony

Alouidor. The prime minister intends to study and update its files. Following is a report by reporter Jean-Max Blanc.

[Begin recording] [Blanc] The Haitian prime minister said he is seeking out anyone who is obstructing justice in Haiti. The head of the government believes that the corruption level in the Justice Department is higher than one could ever imagine. He adds that his government is more than willing to solve this problem.

Prime Minister Preval cited three instances that occurred during his administration, examples showing that the corrupt have no fear. The first example occurred when he asked the director of the Central Bank of Haiti to show him the houses seized by the bank for non-payment. Investigation revealed that the seized houses were now in the names of the bank owners, that the deeds bear the bank owners' names.

Another example involved his asking drug enforcement authorities for the report on a seizure of 32 kilos of cocaine. The official in charge advised him that anyone involved in drug trafficking never spends even a week in prison. To the prime minister's great surprise, three days later, the judicial authorities released those arrested for drugs. Prime Minister Preval intends to re-examine all files previously executed. [passage omitted].

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, on the other hand, in an interview with a newspaper in the capital, stresses the need for changes in the ministries. The president said he is studying the possibility of members of popular organizations being integrated into ministries so that changes can occur more authentically. According to President Aristide, all ministries should be "de-macoutized," and anyone who opposes the "de-macoutization" operation, can leave with the macoutes. [end recording]

Honorat Calls Regime 'Rabble Dictatorship'

FL2205231991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 May 91

[Report by Philippe Bien-Aime]

[Excerpts] According to lawyer Jean-Jacques Honorat, an official of the Haitian Center for the Defense of Civil Rights and Liberties [CHADEL], the human rights situation in Haiti has not changed during the 103 days since Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide took office as head of state. It has, in fact, gotten worse. In a country where one of the 7 February 1986 achievements was freedom of expression, this right is about to be blocked by threats of pere lebrun [necklacing].

Although Honorat realizes that the condition of human rights cannot be completely changed within 103 days, he believes that if the state power has a will—which he does not see—the situation can be changed to one of order within 103 days. The 29 March [1987] Constitution is not being respected. Appointments are being arbitrarily

made; tortures are being committed; the government is setting itself above the law by arresting people without warrant. [passage omitted]

Lawyer Jean-Jacques Honorat goes on to say that the people's right to speak has begun to be broken down, and that he is no longer able to properly defend any person as he had been able to since 1986. He is accused of defending macoutes and zenglendos. He believes we are in the presence of a rabble dictatorship. [passage omitted]

The CHADEL official also speaks of executive interference in judicial matters. According to Honorat, the judicial power has not been acting independently. [passage omitted] He says that to achieve effective reforms within the judicial system, justice must be independent while applying the provisions of the Constitution to the process of reform, that is, with the participation of the departmental assemblies, the communal assemblies, and the CASEC's [Communal Section Administration Councils].

Costa Rica

Border Police Corps Begins Patrol Duties

PA2205131191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1534 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] San Jose, 20 May. (ACAN-EFE)—The Public Security Ministry has reported that a new border police corps has been formed. The new corps has 400 men and is equipped with communications equipment and vehicles suitable for rural areas. It will start to work today in the northern Costa Rican border area with Nicaragua.

The new corps will have 10 vehicles, a cavalry unit, and several motorboats, as well as modern communications equipment, to cover an area of more than 6,000 square km, the source added.

Recently, the region has been disrupted by various criminal acts including gunrunning, cattle rustling, abductions, and violent murders. The latest of these incidents was the murder of four children between the ages of seven months and six years.

Although the police patrol the area periodically, the residents are totally terrified of the armed bands of former Nicaraguan "contras" that roam the area. Many residents have abandoned their properties and migrated to other areas in Costa Rica where they feel they are safe from the violence.

Today, Public Security Minister Victor Herrera will start a two-day tour to inaugurate five new police garrisons in several northern communities and to supply the new police corps with its equipment.

One of the border police corps' first activities will be to detect and deactivate mine fields in the border areas with Nicaragua, Herrera reported.

Several of these mine fields have been discovered over the past few days. The authorities suspect that, as a result of the 1983-90 war between the Sandinists and the "contras," there are large amounts of explosive devices buried in the area that pose a serious safety hazard to the residents.

El Salvador

Government, FMLN Prepare for Caracas Talks

Parties To Meet

PA2205151791 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish
20 May 91 p28

[Text] Sources who wish to remain anonymous said today that the government delegation will leave on 23 May for Caracas, Venezuela to meet with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 24 May [as published]. The two sides will meet to conclude the second phase of meetings, which began on 4 April in Mexico City, where the amendments to the Constitution were agreed upon.

A delegation of political parties will leave tomorrow at 0800 for Managua, Nicaragua. The delegation was invited by the FMLN to meet and discuss the next round of negotiations with the government, where pending topics, such as the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the end of the fighting, will be discussed. Attending the Managua meeting will be delegations from the following parties: Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], PDC [Christian Democratic Party], PCN [National Conciliation Party], Democratic Convergence, UDN [National Democratic Union], and MAC [Authentic Christian Movement].

According to some Arena and PCN leaders, they cannot accept the FMLN sabotaging the electric power grid and threatening mayors and judges in several municipalities—using the argument that those officials cannot operate in areas controlled by the guerrillas—as a way of exerting political pressure on the negotiations with the government, which is what the government would have everybody believe." [quotation mark as published] Top Armed Forces and FMLN representatives will be attending the Caracas meeting. The two delegations increased the number of their members because the negotiations are crucial, especially because new elements submitted by the two sides have been introduced.

UN Mediator Alvaro de Soto will have the support of four ambassadors from the UN secretary general's "four friendly nations," namely Mexico, Spain, Colombia, and Venezuela, the host country. Throughout the conflict those countries have shown interest in finding a negotiated political solution to the war. At this point, they have voiced their trust that "peace is close, because the government and the FMLN are committed to achieving political agreements to end the fighting."

Negotiator Urges Cease-Fire

PA2205151891 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA
in Spanish 21 May 91 p2

[Text] Oscar Santamaria, a member of the dialogue commission and Presidency minister, yesterday called on the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to correctly interpret the feelings of the people and, thus, reach a cease-fire agreement in the upcoming negotiations. The official appeared before local and foreign reporters at the Presidential Palace to announce that the talks will resume on 25 May in Caracas, Venezuela.

He said the topics of the Armed Forces and cease-fire will be discussed simultaneously in two separate negotiations. He stressed that the work on both topics has been 95-percent reviewed and little remains to be done until the agreements are signed.

In this respect, he added that it is possible to meet the 30 May deadline established by the FMLN to sign the cease-fire agreement. The two sides have been ready since the April meeting and there is nothing to indicate anything otherwise for this round of talks. He accepted, however, that the Caracas meeting is programmed to go beyond what was agreed upon in May.

Santamaria also downplayed the idea that other sectors of Salvadoran society can directly participate in the negotiations, noting they can do so through already established channels, as has been done in meetings of interested sectors with each of the negotiating parties.

The official indicated that the approval from ONUSAL [United Nations Observers for El Salvador] constitutes a significant political contribution to the negotiation process as it reaffirms the first agreement, on human rights, reached in San Jose in 1990. To conclude, Santamaria said an end to the sabotaging of the electric power grid is not negotiable as an individual topic, but can be considered within the broader context of different manifestations of violence.

Groups Endorse ONUSAL

PA2205155191 San Salvador Radio Cadena
YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] The opposition political parties and numerous labor organizations have expressed their approval of the UN Security Council's decision to send a special commission to verify the human rights situation in the nation. The members of the National Conciliation and Christian Democrat Parties, as well as members of the National Peasant-Worker Unity and the National Union of Salvadoran Workers, stated that the special ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] commission will help guarantee that the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] fulfill the agreements that they signed in Costa Rica in 1990.

FMLN Warning

PA12305005391 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2131 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] San Salvador, 22 May (ACAN-EFE) - The Salvadoran guerrillas warned today that they would not sign any "armed peace" agreement during the next peace talks with the government if the authorities continue to "act with the impunity that comes from military power" to avoid the social problems of the country.

Radio Farabundo Marti, one of the rebel radio stations, warned that "in order to agree on a cease-fire, the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], the military high command, and private enterprise must absolutely stop trying to maintain the impunity that comes from military power to avoid the serious social problems of the workers."

The guerrillas were reacting to an official communique that says that the government would prosecute farmers who began occupying land illegally in April, and workers who supported labor strikes called by those who want to cause more problems for our country."

On the other hand, the Armed Forces said that the illegal land seizures, death threats against mayors and judges over the last few days, calls for public employees to strike, and the increase in sabotage against the electrical

system is part of a "generalized terrorist plan" by the rebels to block the peace negotiations.

The government of President Alfredo Cristiani and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) started a new round of talks in Caracas this past weekend under UN mediation to discuss a cease-fire and the purging of the Armed Forces.

The FMLN said that the government warning to the farmers and public employees "seeks to create the necessary environment for carrying out a new bloodbath in the country," which is already immersed in a civil war that has caused the death of 70,000 Salvadorans in eleven years.

The FMLN also warned that "even though there are continuing negotiations with the government, the military has decided to repress field and urban workers. They should, however, be ready to accept the consequences, because while the army here defends the rich, there is also an army that defends the poor."

The rebels said that the current problems are part of the social and political deterioration that the government has suffered over the past two years, and they added "you reap what you sow."

Cristiani Comments

PA12305043091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0332 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] San Salvador, 22 May (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today asked the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) "not to be afraid" of signing a cease-fire agreement with his government during the meeting that will begin on 25 May in Caracas, Venezuela.

Speaking over a national radio and television network, the Salvadoran president also confirmed the installation of the United Nations Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] in this country on 1 June. The ONUSAL is a special United Nations office that is tasked with verifying compliance with agreements reached by both sides in the peace negotiations, which began more than a year ago.

President Cristiani scored the insurgents for having increased their violent actions, such as the use of car bombs and the "unnecessary" attacks on the electrical system. Cristiani warned the rebels that the actions "are not good" for the peace process because "they are not going to change our attitude" towards it.

President Cristiani said it is the government's duty to enforce the law, adding that he will not hesitate to use "force whenever it becomes necessary." He reiterated that if an agreement for suspending hostilities is signed in Caracas, "it will be the beginning of peace, which will be consolidated during the second phase of the pacification process amid an atmosphere of tranquility."

FMLN's Martinez Interviewed

PA2205151491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1244 GMT 22 May 91

[Interview with FMLN, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez by Jose Esteban Quezada in Managua "shortly before her departure for Caracas"; date not given—recorded]

[Text] FMLN Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez has stated that the end of the Salvadoran conflict is near. The FMLN and the Salvadoran Government will begin another round of talks on Saturday, 25 May, in Venezuela, in the search for a cease-fire. Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the FMLN's political-diplomatic commission, said in Managua that the situation has changed in recent years and the end of the Salvadoran conflict is not far away.

Shortly before her departure for Caracas, Commander Martinez was interviewed by Jose Esteban Quezada about her meeting with the official delegation of Alfredo Cristiani's government.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] The two topics to be discussed during the next round of talks are the Armed Forces and [words indistinct]. The essential problem concerning the topic of a cease-fire concerns the FMLN's political activities once that cease-fire actually goes into effect. That is precisely one of the points that will be discussed in Caracas.

There is no consensus in the Army and some Salvadoran (?church) groups about what political activities the FMLN may conduct once the cease-fire is achieved. That will probably be the most difficult issue during the next round of talks. The (?military) believes that the FMLN's political branch will not be able to engage in political activities throughout the country once its military branch is demobilized.

That view is obviously incorrect because every effort is being made to end the war and allow a transitional period in which the society that has been divided by a civil war will have a chance at achieving reconciliation. It is considered a transitional period, but I think it is actually a test period. We will be able to see if political opportunities truly exist and if we will be able to participate in politics, regardless of what anyone believes. I think that will be the key issue in the next meeting.

[Quezada] Does the meeting in Managua between parliamentary members and political party representatives from the Salvadoran parliament [as heard] represent an effort to strengthen political activities after a cease-fire, and to discuss other issues?

[Martinez] Well, they are members of political parties and they obviously [words indistinct], meaning that it would be more appropriate for the FMLN to participate in politics once the cease-fire occurs. Because they represent different parties, their opinions differ, but the vast majority agrees that it is logical for the FMLN to

demand those political opportunities. They will try to play a positive role in making that possible and to achieve progress in the dialogue and the discussion of other pending topics. We anticipate an overall positive attitude.

[Quezada] Ana Guadalupe, I think that the possibility of ending the war in El Salvador is near because new opportunities and new alternatives are available, and political solutions are possible despite current problems. In addition, the regional situation has changed and [words indistinct] so the military conflict in El Salvador—and the Guatemalan situation, to a certain extent—are somewhat isolated cases. Therefore, international pressure is being exerted to solve the Salvadoran problem. What is your opinion?

[Martinez] Yes, I believe that the Salvadoran conflict is one of the most deeply rooted and difficult, and, obviously, it will not be easy to achieve agreements to end it. However, we, as well as a large portion of Salvadoran society, are convinced that now is the time to seek an end to the conflict. There are many who are still reactionary, but [words indistinct]. The world has not changed for them even though everyone recognizes that one cannot think like one did two years ago.

The cold war has ended. Our conflicts are no longer considered a result of Soviet or U.S. interests. Instead, they are essentially the result of our own national cause, yet some people still live in the past. That is the most difficult thing to overcome but, obviously, I think that the majority—I would not dare say all the people—are striving to end the conflict. The FMLN is part of the majority. It wants to achieve a negotiated solution so it [words indistinct] peace in El Salvador.

Everyone knows that once peace is achieved in El Salvador the region will obviously achieve truly firm and acceptable levels of stability. That is closely linked with the latest changes. Two years ago no one could believe the FMLN was capable of meeting with a group of Salvadoran parties representing the whole spectrum, in Managua; it would have been viewed as cooperation between the Sandinists and the FMLN. Now it is considered a contribution from a democratic government to the peace process in El Salvador. Things have changed a lot. That is why we believe that our conflict is about to end, and the positions that are still part of the past will be overcome. That is the truth. [end recording]

Guatemala**Labor Leaders Denounce Violence, Threats**

PA2205150191 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 15 May 91 p 6

[Text] The Guatemalan Workers Trade Union (UNSI-TRAGUA) disclosed on 14 May that 90 percent of the country's labor and mass leaders have been threatened with death. There are even specific cases in which

individuals have been given deadlines to leave the country, while others have already been the targets of criminal attacks.

Byron and Hugo Morales, members of UNSITRAGUA's Executive Committee and the Unity of Trade Unions and Popular Action (UASP), condemned and rejected "the alarming increase in the amount of human rights violations perpetrated since the current government took office, which has resulted in unbridled political violence."

They cited the murders of Dinora Perez, a labor adviser and popular leader; clergyman Moises Cisneros; and, more recently, the forced exile of Social Democrat Luis Armando Zurita Tablada, who had to leave the country because of threats against his life.

Hugo Morales said, "Pressures against the political, labor, and popular sectors have reached the point where we are being subjected to surveillance and intimidation. I can cite an example of our co-workers Byron Morales and Sergio Guzman, who have been given 72 hours to leave the country."

Similar situations have been experienced by leaders of the CUSG [Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity], CGTG [Guatemalan Workers General Central Organization], CONAVIGUA [expansion unknown], CUC [Committee of Peasant Unity], FENASTEG [National Federation of State Workers Unions], CEEM [expansion unknown], AEU [Association of University Students], GAM [Mutual Support Group], CERJ [Council of Ethnic Communities], STEG [expansion unknown], UNSITRAGUA, and UASP, "which have clearly denounced coercion, surveillance, persecution, and violent incidents that keep us in constant danger. These assertions are not based on simple conjecture but on evidence that repression is once again gaining control of Guatemala," Byron Morales warned.

"We are asking Dr. Mario Solorzano Martinez to resign from the government if he has the slightest moral commitment left to the group of fellow Social Democrats whom he once led in a political-ideological movement," said the secretary general of the Judicial Branch Workers Union [Sindicato de Trabajadores del Organismo Judicial—STOJ].

The STOJ leader added: "We profoundly regret that the country is once again being driven into a wave of terror, which is characteristic of military regimes, thereby damaging the credibility of the efforts that are being made through a dialogue for peace that should involve all of the representative sectors."

The STOJ leader feels that as the "constitutional president," Serrano Elias is responsible for the security of Guatemalans in general. He added that "the death squads are the ones who cause unrest with their actions, and the president should dismantle them."

Dr. Gabriel Salazar, a member of the Guatemalan Red Cross workers union, condemned the wave of violence

and the Zurita case, which are taking place "at a time when we are supposedly living in a *de jure* state. Yet there is a prevalence of repression, coercion, and intimidation by obscurantist groups who do not respect others' intelligence."

Salazar said that due to the current situation, not only the government but also the Human Rights Attorney's Office, the Supreme Court, and the judicial system are losing credibility. It is therefore urgent for those who promote violence to desist from their intentions of keeping Guatemala submerged in desperation.

"Guatemalans who are aware of this cannot deny that political violence has increased in the country. It is regrettable for leaders of any ideology to be forced into exile, since we are on the verge of either taking a big step forward or regressing to the eighties," said Human Rights Attorney Ramiro de Leon Carpio.

De Leon Carpio attributed the attacks "to groups that do not want peace. Those of us in Guatemala who are playing important roles are moving forward, but there are people whose sole interest is to create national as well as international chaos."

"There is a marked intensification of common and political violence, as well as violence against the system, as a consequence of past socio-economic problems; those who fail to see this must be blind or do not want to admit it," De Leon Carpio said.

The FENASTEG, through Secretary General Armando Sanchez, said that "obscurantist groups with reactionary and criminal tendencies are the ones who have caused the increased violence in the country."

Sanchez added that "the incipient democratic process promoted by the government will not be strengthened as long as these criminal groups remain active and implement their usual mechanisms of repression and terror against the democratic sectors of the country."

"The black and bloody phases of the past are again flourishing in our country, and this is regrettable because it is not the way to solve our social, economic, and political problems," said CGTG Secretary General Jose Pinzon.

"The level of violence into which the country is being submerged is worrisome, especially because it endangers, once again, the stability and security of Guatemalans who are involved in the national situation and are in one way or another seeking the well-being of the majority of the population," he underscored.

"Extreme right-wing organizations are reappearing nationwide, and proof of this is the increased number of murders, persecution, and threats by individuals from the self-styled left wing who consider it a sin to oppose social injustice and are operating openly," said CUSG Secretary General Juan Francisco Alfaro Mijangos.

"The people are asking themselves if we are returning to the levels of violence that existed between 1978 and 1982, when various sectors of the population were harassed, threatened, and murdered," he concluded.

Presidency Secretary Explains Talks Postponement

PA2205144291 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 20 May 91 p3

[Text] Manuel Conde Orellana, secretary general of the Presidency and head of the government delegation to the negotiations with URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity], yesterday told SIGLO VEINTIUNO: "We have been told that, because of medical reasons, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno must observe a period of convalescence that will go beyond the month of May," and consequently, the meeting will have to wait until June.

Conde Orellana also explained that "during the first meeting held in Mexico, the latter half of May was chosen for the second round of talks, taking into consideration that mediator Quezada had to undergo an operation."

He added that, however, "We were informed today that on his doctor's advice, Quezada, president of the National Reconciliation Commission, must have a period of convalescence that goes beyond the month of May, and although we recognize the importance of speeding up the talks, it is more important for the mediator to maintain his health."

For his part, Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu telephoned our office and told us that he never announced any dates for the next round of talks. He noted that he only limited himself to saying that because of the mediator's illness the talks could not be held as they had been tentatively agreed on.

Arzu's statement was made in the wake of a report published in this newspaper referring to an item that appeared in the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR, blaming him for the postponement of the date for the talks with URNG, citing a CERIGUA news agency report.

He added that, evidently, URNG and its mouthpiece, CERIGUA, "are upset because of changes made at the Guatemalan Embassy in Mexico."

Finally, the foreign minister deplored SIGLO VEINTIUNO for carrying unofficial news from a Mexican newspaper, thus referring to EXCELSIOR.

[Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish at 0345 GMT on 21 May reports that "Conde dismissed a report that there is doubt about Alvaro Arzu's permanence as foreign minister and that this is the cause for the postponement of the second round of direct talks between the government and URNG, as CERIGUA reported from Mexico." Teleonce then plays a recording of Conde who adds: "There is absolutely nothing true about that. CERIGUA's report is thus denied. The relations

between the foreign minister and the president are harmonious and normal. The foreign minister is working very well."]

Rebel Leader on Recent Surrenders, Negotiations

PA2205132491 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The local Noticias en Guatemala news agency, which is associated with URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity], reports that the Army had the village of Tecoschol in Tepae, Chimaltenango, virtually surrounded during the days prior to the surrender of the 37 peasants who were presented as former guerrillas. Noticias en Guatemala, which complements or operates parallel to CERIGUA, also cites statements attributed to guerrilla leader Rolando Moran. He reportedly stated that the war will continue and that URNG will strengthen its military potential if the people do not receive a satisfactory solution to the problems of democratization and a political solution to the armed conflict. Rolando Moran or Ricardo Ramirez, which is his real name, stated that he was satisfied with the results of the last meeting between government and URNG representatives because, he said, it included our proposals and these are necessary to resolve the situation.

Nicaragua

Government 'Ready' To Negotiate With Teachers

PA2205161691 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1340 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] The representatives of the pro-Sandinist National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers [ANDEN] unilaterally broke off talks with the Nicaraguan Government on 20 May by refusing to meet with Education Minister Humberto Belli.

A communique issued by the Directorate of Information and Press of the Presidency [DIPP] and read by DIPP Director Danilo Lacayo indicates, however, that the government continues to be ready to negotiate an end to the teachers' strike, which is definitely threatening the school year. On the "Nicaragua" and "The World" newscast, let us hear official Government Spokesman Danilo Lacayo.

[Begin Lacayo recording] The DIPP hereby informs the Nicaraguan people that:

1. Education Ministry officials did not participate in the 11 May meeting between ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers] delegates and Antonio Ibarra Rojas, deputy minister of the presidency, because the officials believed that the atmosphere created by the violent events that took place on Thursday 16 April [as heard] at the ministry building was not conducive to the negotiations.

2. Antonio Ibarra Rojas invited the ANDEN delegates to present their proposal on 20 May in order to refer it to the proper authorities, and advised them that he would keep them abreast of the negotiations with the Ministry of Education.

3. Respecting the agreement, the deputy minister of the presidency met with ANDEN delegates on 20 May and invited them to a working meeting during which the government's proposal would be presented to all the union federations, starting with ANDEN. The meeting would be held in the office of Education Minister Humberto Belli.

4. The ANDEN delegates refused to attend the meeting with the minister of education. They were then asked to leave the Presidential Palace and advised not to miss this opportunity to meet with Minister Humberto Belli.

[Dated] Managua, 20 May 1991.

This is the communique issued by the DIPP to inform the public about the demands being made by and the conversations held with the teachers who remain outside the Presidential Palace. [end recording]

Students Occupy Palace

PA2205193091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1513 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Managua, 22 May (ACAN-EFE)— Hundreds of students today occupied Managua's National Palace, a building where many state offices are located, to support a teachers' strike. The strike is 44 days old and was declared to demand salary increases.

The occupation of the National Palace occurs hours after the negotiations between a commission consisting of teachers and government officials last night failed to reach an agreement to put an end to the conflict.

The National Palace is the same building seized by a Sandinist guerrilla group headed by the legendary "Commander Cero," Eden Pastora, in August 1978. The group held Somozist and Conservative Party deputies hostage and the action led to the release of political prisoners, including Sandinist leader Tomas Borge.

A student spokesman said that the students decided to seize the building because of the government's "intransigence" in meeting the teachers' demands. The strikers are demanding that the minimum wage cover at least 40 percent of the basic food basket made up of 53 products, and propose a 100 percent salary increase.

Education officials rejected the proposal and instead proposed a staggered increase of 20 percent over the next four months.

The students who are occupying the National Palace said that they are unarmed and have not used force to seize the building.

On Monday [20 May] approximately 5,000 teachers, students, and parents staged a demonstration in front of the presidency to pressure the government into yielding to the strikers' demands.

A secondary school teacher earns 370 cordobas (\$74) per month and a primary school teacher earns between 212 (\$42) and 304 cordobas (\$60.80) per month.

Supreme Court Invalidates Rulings on Property

PA2205183091 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Yesterday, the nine Supreme Court justices ruled unconstitutional all the decisions made by the National Revision Commission on Confiscations in regard to two articles of Decree 1190, which call for the use of the public force to regain seized assets. (In essence), the Supreme Court resolution invalidates the (additions) to the resolution issued by the National Revision Commission chaired by Attorney General Duilo Baltodano. The Supreme Court's ruling stunned the business sectors participating in the national dialogue. They said they would not comment until they have received the Supreme Court's official ruling.

Former Leaders Meet With Group of 'Re-Contras'

PA2205153791 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
18 May 91 p 16

[Text] When a delegation of the Nicaraguan Institute for Repatriation returned from a meeting in Wiwili, Jinotega Department, they met a group of 10 armed men, known as "re-contras," in the area of Aguas Amarillas, with whom they talked for several minutes.

Sergio O'Connor, social worker for the Nicaraguan Institute for Repatriation, said that the armed men told former RN [National Resistance] Commanders "Wilmer," "Jimmy," "Leo," and Oscar Sobalvarro that they had been forced to rearm themselves as a result of the strong pressure that the Sandinists are exerting on the demobilized fighters in the northern part of the country. The armed men reported that they are constantly receiving death threats from the Sandinists.

The group of armed men demanded that the government comply with the promises made during the demobilization process. Sobalvarro responded that he would convey their concerns to the government authorities.

O'Connor stated that Sobalvarro had told the armed men that he understood their decision, but warned them not to take up arms to damage the new democracy in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, the top RN leaders, "Commander Navegante," Jose Guerrero of the Southern Front; "Commander Leonel," Luis Angel Lopez; "Commander Invisible," Rodolfo Ampie of the Northern Front; and "Commander Blas," Osorno Coleman of Yatama [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians, and Creole Groups

Organization], warned the demobilized group in a communique not to let the pro-Sandinist media manipulate them. They concluded that the Sandinists are only trying to undermine the national reconciliation effort.

Panama

Government Issues Economic Reform Program

PA2205173391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 May 91 p 2A

[Text of economic reform program as announced by Minister of Planning and Economic Policy Guillermo Ford in his address to the nation on 16 May]

[Text] National Government Economic Program

I. Technical Team

The Government of Panama, taking into consideration the economic recovery program's complexity in its design and implementation, has organized at the Planning and Finance Ministry [MIPPE] a group of technicians to coordinate and follow up the actions outlined in the program. This coordinating team is directly responsible to the National Economic Council [CENA—Consejo Economico Nacional].

II. Trade Policy

The government will implement the economy's liberation to increase efficiency, direct production toward exports, allow greater flexibility in the production system, and increase job generation capability.

To reach these goals, measures will be taken to reduce levels of industrial protection and the diversity of tariffs.

The government's commitment is:

1. To eliminate the use of specific tariffs during the program's duration (the government will receive technical assistance) and reduce the maximum tariff rates to 60 percent (industrial sector) and 90 percent (agro-industrial sector) before presenting the program to the bank director.
2. Before the third disbursement, (1 January 1993), the reduction program will continue until the rates reach 40 percent (industrial sector) and 50 percent (agro-industrial sector).

The Commerce and Industries Ministry is authorized to implement corrective measures in special cases when the industrial and/or agro-industrial sectors present proof of negative effects due to the reduction of the protection levels.

3. During the implementation of the program, price controls will be eliminated from products that are free from direct quantitative restrictions.

4. There will be no quantitative restrictions on industrial and agro-industrial products in general, except for cases that are related to the agricultural liberalization program.
5. The government will maintain protection tariffs for new industrial and agro-industrial products at a 20- and 30-percent rate, respectively.
6. The tax on the import of equipment and capital goods for the industrial sector will be set at 3 percent. This tariff will be the minimum import tax in the Panamanian tariff system.
7. The government, with technical assistance from the World Bank, will draft an agricultural liberalization program. A schedule will be drafted for each product and its implementation will be made during the program to eliminate quantitative restrictions and to establish tariff rates and price controls.

Additional measures will be taken into consideration to facilitate the implementation of the program, including the adoption of compensation mechanisms for products that have been adversely affected.

8. During the implementation of the program, the Price Regulation Office will become the Consumer Protection Office.

III. Labor Policy

The government will introduce measures aimed at reducing the current high unemployment rate. To achieve this goal, it will promote a national concerted agreement with employers and workers for the implementation of the labor measures mentioned in this program.

In this regard, the following have been approved:

1. A new law with more flexible labor norms for the new industries that will be established in multi-sector export zones.
2. The suspension of the obligation to negotiate collective bargaining agreements that expire in 1991 and 1992, allowing the parties to decide on an extension or negotiations.
3. The Labor Ministry's authority to engage in arbitration in case of unresolved conflicts between the parties.
4. Businesses will initially be granted three years of operation without being required to negotiate collective bargaining contracts.
5. The revision of labor regulations and other regulations contained in the law that was recently passed.

IV. Public Enterprises

The government will implement a program of reforms in public service institutions by means of specific action plans for the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification], IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute], INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunications], and the APN [National Port Authority].

The program includes:

1. A program for the strengthening of IRHE and IDAAN, the objective of which will be:
 - a. To reduce technical losses
 - b. To increase their efficiency.
 - c. To reduce costs and transfer such reductions to consumers through a drop in rates without affecting the enterprises' financial position. This process will be aimed at establishing effective prices.

Similarly, contracts will be made with the private sector for the supply of services that are not primary for the two institutions (IRHE and IDAAN). The purchasing and bidding systems will be reviewed to make them more efficient.

The government will continue the process to solve the financial problems of these enterprises.

2. To make the ports of Balboa and Cristobal more efficient, concessions and permits will be granted for cargo handling.

Measures will be taken to attract private investment in the development of new port facilities.

3. The telecommunications sector will be reorganized through the following actions:
 - a. A new law on telecommunications will be drafted to introduce competition in the sector and, at the same time, it will define the framework for the state to regulate such competition.
 - b. The government will begin a process that will culminate with making INTEL a mixed enterprise with ample participation through the sale of shares. This participation will include that of the workers.

V. Public Financial Sector

A program to reorganize the financial public system will be drafted to provide:

1. Options for the transformation of the National Mortgage Bank and the Agricultural Development Bank once their portfolios have been straightened out.
2. The continuation of the process to improve the financial position of the National Bank of Panama and the Savings Fund. The government has already taken many actions in this direction and is drafting a plan of action to continue the process.
3. The continuation of efforts to strengthen the National Banking Commission in its inspection and supervisory tasks through careful regulation within the established legal framework.

VI. Privatization

1. The government will present to the Legislative Assembly a bill to implement a privatization program.
2. The program will be under the National Economic Council Directorate (CENA). International firms will be hired to draft the documents and the process to be used to sell the enterprises that will be privatized.
3. The government has drafted a list of enterprises and activities that can be privatized.

The government may gauge how much progress the program has made by taking into consideration the amount of state assets and property that has been sold.

The transferring of state installations and basic services to the private sector will be considered part of the program. In addition, the government's new policy is that in the future the private sector will be responsible for any expansion of any public enterprise.

VII. Running Expenses

The government will gradually change public expenditure structures by increasing investment expenditures and reducing operating expenses.

Measures are currently being implemented to reduce personal services expenditures. So far, the following has been accomplished:

1. A net reduction of 8,400 employees up to March 1991. This represents 6 percent of the positions that existed in December 1989.
2. A 10-percent decrease in the salaries established for all the positions. The decrease becomes effective whenever a new employee replaces another.
3. Fixed allowances were eliminated for many positions, and in others they became part of the salary so that they could produce income tax and social security tax revenues.
4. Payroll has been frozen at the \$14.6 million mark, and, of this money, \$8.1 million correspond with new positions.
5. The suspension of the payment of the 13th month has been maintained.

To achieve a 10-percent reduction on personal services expenses once the program concludes, the process will be continued by:

1. A freeze on all vacancies as of 31 May 1991.
2. The transfer of employees to the private sector through the privatization program.
3. Vacancies produced by retirement, resignation, or other reasons will not be filled by new employees except for cases considered indispensable by the executive branch. Certain institutions will be excluded by virtue of their nature and current laws.

To achieve this objective, employees will first be relocated within the same institution and then transferred from other institutions.

VIII. Public Investment Program

The government will increase the level of public investments in priority areas, especially rehabilitation and maintenance projects on the economic and social infrastructure.

IX. Social Sector

The government has drafted a strategy to reduce poverty in Panama and has identified priority programs and projects for the social sector.

A sizable part of the program includes nutrition and health programs. The government is committed to maintaining the participation of the social sector within the nation's budget during the duration of the program.

X. Tax Reform

The government will submit to the Legislative Assembly a tax reform bill that will include the following:

1. To promote local and foreign investment, the income tax for corporations, which currently stands at a maximum of 50 percent, will be reduced in phases until it reaches a maximum rate of 35 percent, at the latest by 1994.
2. Beginning in 1992, income tax for individual citizens will be modified as follows:

The highest rate will be reduced to a maximum of 35 percent. For reasons of fairness, the minimum nontaxable amount and deductibles for taxpayers and their relatives will be raised.

To counteract a loss in revenues, an additional tax on luxury service of 10 percent will be introduced and will take into account the new revenues produced by a 3-percent tax on the import of industrial products.

XI. Social Security Fund

The government has submitted a bill before the Legislative Assembly to amend the retirement system to include the following:

1. Elimination of early retirement.
2. Fixing retirement for both sexes at 60 years of age. This will be implemented through a staggered schedule for women.
3. Change of the formula used to estimate retirement.
4. Change in the structure of the contribution percentage.
5. Restrictions in the conditions that are considered to define a beneficiary.
6. Inclusion of issues that until now were excluded from the definition of salary for the purpose of estimating contribution of funds.

All these elements will eliminate the cash deficit of the Pension Program in the next 10 years.

The government is intent on increasing the yield of reserve funds of the Social Security Fund through professional and prudent management.

The reform package includes the following:

7. The interest rate on loans granted by the Social Security Fund will not be lower than the one charged by the National Bank of Panama.
8. The Social Security Fund is authorized to make deposits not only in the National Bank of Panama, but also in the Savings Bank.
9. The Social Security Fund is authorized to buy the mortgages of its members' homes.

The government will start a study on the integrated health system to ensure that the Social Security Fund and the Health Ministry will pay for their own expenditures.

PRD Supporters Accused of Blocking Law Debate

PA2205162691 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 May 91 p 8-C

[Text] The National University Democratization Movement [MDUP] has reported to the national authorities the implementation of a destabilization plan in the country plotted by supporters of the Noriega regime within the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]. The conspiracy is being implemented at the debates on reforms to the University of Panama's Law No. 11, the press committee of the MDUP stated.

The PRD has organized mobs that turn up daily to shout insults at the democratic sectors of the University of Panama and the legislators. These mobs have impaired the debates on the aforementioned law to the extent that the assembly has not yet been able to conclude its discussions.

Meanwhile, the MDUP again reports threats of aggression, academic persecution, and death received by its leaders from the moment they decided to rescue the university from authoritarianism and corruption.

The university's highest authorities, such as Secretary General Miguel Angel Candanedo, have issued bold threats that should have triggered the justice system to stop the criminal activities from happening, the movement's committee said.

A call is made for Attorney General Rogelio Cruz to begin an official investigation based on the illegal public activities of the university authorities and their tiny group of followers.

Argentina

Army Commander Denies 'Unrest' on Budget Issues

PY2205233801 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1917 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] San Salvador de Jujuy, 22 May (NA) — General Martin Bonnet, Army commander in chief, emphatically denied 22 May that there is any type of "unrest or demands" within his institution because of a low budget and low salaries, and he maintained that "there will be an improvement in the salaries only when [words indistinct] have sufficient to do so."

Moreover, the Army commander noted that "there are problems in achieving the appropriate operational capability," although he admitted that in the future there will be no demands regarding salaries.

Bonnet highlighted the fact that the Army "has made no demands"; it has only "expressed the basic needs of the Army to those who are responsible for managing the country."

In brief remarks to the press during a visit to the Jujuy garrison in the company of General Eduardo Maffei, commander of the Army 3d Corps, Bonnet stressed that the Army "is aware of the country's priorities; therefore, it is willing to cooperate with the government."

The Army commander added that "the objective of this cooperation is to help resolve problems in accordance with the government's possibilities and priorities."

With his visit to Jujuy, Bonnet concluded an inspection tour that began in Tucuman, where he visited the 19th Infantry Regiment and the Military Hospital, and he met with the leadership of the 5th Infantry Brigade based in Tucuman City.

When he was asked about the AIDS cases discovered during medical examination of draftees, Bonnet admitted that "regrettably there are no funds to carry out an analysis of all of them."

In this respect, he maintained that "it costs the institution a lot of money and at best analyses are carried out when there is doubt, in cases where the possibility exists that some of the personnel are sick."

Cavallo Explains Proposal To Postpone Bonus

PY2205220191 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 22 May 91 pp 1, 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The postponement of next month's mid-year bonus for five-sixths of the nation's wage-earners was announced yesterday by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

The staggering of mid-year and year-end wage bonuses over the length of the calendar year seeks to offset the perennial inflationary peaks in June and December, the minister said.

According to Cavallo's proposal, one-sixth of the work force would receive its bonus payments in June and December, another sixth in August and January, another sixth in September and February, and so forth, meaning that only one-sixth of the nation's wage-earners and retired workers will receive their full bonus this year.

Starting next year, bonuses will be paid every six months, taking the individual wage-earner's first day of employment as the starting date, rather than January 1, according to Labour Minister Rodolfo Diaz, who also explained the new bonus system to reporters yesterday.

Cavallo denied that the government was postponing wage bonuses because revenue has dropped to where the state can't meet next month's payments, although it was reported that it is acting on International Monetary Fund suggestions on the issue.

Bonuses would be paid in an order to be determined by either an individual worker's ID number or by the size of his income, with those at the lower end of the wage scale receiving their bonuses in June and December, and those at the higher end in November and May.

A sliding scale proposes that those receiving 50 percent of their wage bonus in June will receive the other 50 percent in December while those postponed a month would receive 58 percent in July and the remainder in January next year, a third group will receive 67 percent in August and the remainder in February, a fourth group 75 percent in September and the remainder in March, a fifth group 83 percent in October and the remainder in April and a sixth group 92 percent in November and the remainder in May next year.

"The idea is maintaining the twice-yearly bonus, as established in the labour law, but without bonus payments coinciding on the same month for everybody, so as to avoid the inflationary effect of everyone having 50 percent more in their pockets all on the same month," Cavallo said yesterday.

The measure "will benefit workers because their bonuses won't cause price hikes," Cavallo added.

The proposed fanning out of bonus payments came just as Cavallo is trying to push a number of tax reforms through Congress, where he was expected to present these reforms to Justicialist legislators yesterday.

Cavallo surprisingly let the lawmakers down, concentrating on the wage bonus reform instead during yesterday's meeting.

Cavallo said he is confident that Congress will approve the staggering of bonus payments "within the next three weeks."

The legislature has still to receive Cavallo's tax proposals, which include income tax exemptions for fourth-category wage-earners, a flight capital repatriation scheme and the elimination of a series of banking taxes.

Another tax reform would empower the government to raise the IVA value-added-tax from 16 to 18 percent at any given time, although this reform was denied yesterday by President Carlos Menem, who told reporters at the Olivos presidential residence that "there is no need for alarm."

Cavallo's tax reforms would cut revenue by a monthly 90 million dollars, about 30 percent of Cavallo's target surplus.

The proposed postponement of wage bonus payments was met with sour faces by opposition labour leaders and legislators yesterday.

Cesar Jaroslavsky, the Radical bloc leader at the Lower House of Congress, denied the mid-year bonus is inflationary. "The bonus isn't used to buy things but to pay back debts these days," Jaroslavsky said.

"Claiming that Congress can approve it within three weeks is either rash or the result of ignorance of legislative mechanisms," the Radical added.

Meanwhile, the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] -Azopardo, led by Saul Ubaldini, declared "a state of alert" and demanded meetings with both Labour Minister Diaz and with Cavallo upon learning the news.

U.S. Sales Not To Affect Brazilian Relations

PY2205182491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 May—The U.S. offer to sell wheat and meat to Brazil at a subsidized price does not pose "any threat" to the integration process between Brazil and Argentina because those operations will be "eliminated" when the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] treaty is ratified.

This statement was made today by Alieto Guadagni, international economic relations under secretary, who said that the problems arising from the subsidized U.S. sales "by no means invalidate the main integration objective" between Argentina and Brazil, which "is an irreversible fact."

Guadagni explained that when the Mercosur Treaty is ratified by the legislative branches of the countries that signed the treaty, "it will become a law and none of these operations will be possible because the text precludes this type of transaction."

He added, however, that it will not be an "obstacle" for foreign trade because the signatories will be able to "open their borders to all products and offers, except for those that are subsidized or that have their prices reduced to the detriment of the traditional producers."

In remarks to a radio station, Guadagni said that the idea is that these protective mechanisms contemplated in the Mercosur be carried out "promptly and efficiently" to prevent bureaucratic complications.

He stressed the need for "any producer of the common market who might feel affected to individually pose the issue."

"In the future, when the treaty is implemented, an Argentine producer will be able to show up before the Brazilian officials to challenge the import of subsidized products," Guadagni said.

Regarding the conflict provoked by the U.S. offer, Guadagni said that "it by no means affects the essential integration objective" between Argentina and Brazil.

He said that during his recent trip to Brazil, accompanying Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, he verified that both the Brazilian Government and the Brazilian Foreign Ministry "are absolutely convinced that integration is an irreversible fact, and that they are willing to overcome the obstacles and not to hinder the process."

British-Argentine Fishing Commission Meets

PY2205172491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1114 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 May (NA)—The Southern Atlantic Fishing Commission, comprising Argentine and British representatives, met for the first time on 20 and 21 May in Buenos Aires to analyze the situation of the most significant species in the area surrounding the Malvinas Islands.

The two delegations are headed by Jose Maria Otegui, director of the Argentine Foreign Ministry department for the Malvinas, South Atlantic, and Antarctica, and Merrick Baker Bates, director of the British Foreign Office for the South Atlantic and Antarctica. They agreed to continue to implement the "umbrella" formula over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

During the two-day meeting, the delegations analyzed suggestions on [words indistinct] on the operation of the fishing fleets and on data related to fishing activities and the catch.

A press communique was released that states that the two delegations also discussed "the possible effects of the activities of third countries' fleets in adjacent international waters."

The Argentine delegation proposed two joint scientific investigation projects into the most significant fishing species found between latitudes 45-60 degrees south.

They also agreed to suggest that the two governments sponsor a meeting of Argentine and British experts at the National Research and Fishing Development Institute in Mar del Plata, prior to the commission's second meeting, to analyze technical aspects of the joint scientific investigations.

It was also decided to create a mechanism to speed communication and thus prevent illegal fishing. This

matter will be thoroughly analyzed at the commission's second meeting, which is scheduled to be held in London in November.

It was concluded that the seasonal prohibition of commercial fishing by vessels of any country is being effectively implemented. The two governments adopted this measure after the joint declaration on the preservation of fishing resources that was signed on 28 November 1990.

The representatives of the two delegations stressed "the cordial atmosphere, and the ample spirit of cooperation that prevailed during the meeting."

Bolivia

Justices Return to Sucre, Resume Activities

PY2205132291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0052 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] La Paz, 20 May (EFE)—The Bolivian Supreme Court today resumed its normal activities with the return of the eight justices who have been absent for six months since their impeachment by the Senate.

The justices, headed by Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas, today returned to Sucre, the Bolivian administrative capital and the seat of the Judicial Branch, after Congress lifted the measure ordering them to remain in La Paz during the impeachment proceeding.

Arriving at Sucre Airport in the company of his colleagues, Oblitas said: "We were taken 'de facto' (to La Paz) to stand trial."

The eight justices, of the total of 12 members of the Supreme Court, were impeached by the Senate because last year they ruled inapplicable a government decree that raised the tax on beer.

The ruling coalition parties that promoted the action against the justices lack the majority in the Senate to condemn them. This has led some official circles to view the possibility of pressuring the justices to leave their posts.

Judicial sources have reported that since the eight justices were compelled to remain in La Paz, the seat of the legislative and executive branches, the activities of the Supreme Court of Justice have been minimal.

Oblitas said that all decisions handed down over the past six months by the four other justices lack legality because there was no quorum of the Supreme Court of Justice.

He also announced that one of the first measures to be adopted by the justices will be to resume the trial against former dictator Luis Garcia Meza, who is charged with human right violations. Garcia Meza ruled Bolivia from 1980 to 1981.

The announcement of the impeachment against the justices last year caused the most serious "power struggle" seen in Bolivia since democracy was restored in 1982.

Paz Zamora, Spanish Official Discuss Ties

PY2305035091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 May 91

[Excerpt] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez has praised our country's remarkable international image following the stability reached and involving growth prospects within a democratic framework.

The Spanish foreign minister held his first protocol meeting with Bolivian head of state Jaime Paz Zamora on 22 May at 1930 in the cabinet's briefings hall.

Bolivian Ambassador to Spain Raul Garafalic; Spanish Ambassador to Bolivia Carmelo Angulo; Gustavo Fernandez, minister secretary general of the presidency; and Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena were also present at this first meeting.

Both the illustrious visitor and the Bolivian chief executive emphasized the fact that Bolivian-Spanish relations have reached an excellent level following President Paz Zamora's visit to Spain and King Juan Carlos' visit to Bolivia. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Report Denied on Contract With Libyan Air Force

PY2305025291 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 May 91 p 7

[Text] On 21 May the Aeronautics Ministry denied an article published in the newspaper WASHINGTON TIMES, which belongs to the Moon sect. The article reports on an alleged support contract between the FAB [Brazilian Air Force] and Libya. A press note released by Brigadier Mendes Nogueira, chief of the Social Communications Center, states that the Aeronautics Ministry only makes contacts abroad after consulting with the Foreign Ministry.

Here is the text of the note:

"The Aeronautics Ministry informs the public that the reports published in the national press, based on an article in the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON TIMES, are without foundation. There is no contract under study nor has one been signed that provides for FAB support to the Libyan Air Force.

"The Aeronautics Ministry also informs the public that it only makes contacts for support agreements or any other type of agreement after it has consulted the Foreign Ministry and when duly signed by the president."

Iranian Minister Offers \$750 Million Credit

PY2305003491 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia
Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Iran has offered a \$750 million line of credit to Brazilian businessmen. This credit will be exclusively earmarked for financing the export of assorted consumer goods to Iran.

The offer was made to the Brazilian Government by Iranian Commerce Minister Abdol Vahaji, who is in Brazil on an official visit.

Overdue Interest of \$900 Million To Be Paid

PY2205122891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia
Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 May 91

[Excerpt] The Central Bank dollar cash flow increased by more than \$820 million in May. This is nearly more than double the balance in April when the cash flow increased by \$455 million.

In less than two months the country has collected enough dollars to pay the \$900 million that is owed on overdue interest.

This sum will be disbursed 10 days after the country signs the foreign debt agreement with its creditor banks.

In December the overdue interest amounted to \$8.7 billion. [page omitted]

Police Crack Down Along Border With Paraguay

PY2205210491 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 21 May 91 p 4

[Text] Curitiba — Using 100 vehicles, eight launches, two helicopters, and dogs, 500 men of the Plainclothes, Military and Federal Police began on 20 May the largest operation ever mounted to combat organized violence and crime along the Brazilian-Paraguayan border. Drug trafficking and smuggling are among the crimes committed in the riverine region (180 km) between the two countries, including the Amizade Bridge that joins Brazil and Paraguay and Itaipu Lake, on whose banks are located eight municipalities of the western region.

Federal and State Revenue Offices are also taking part in the operation, which has been named Solidarity Frontier. According to Roberto Requiao, governor of Parana State, who visited Foz do Iguacu and other municipalities of the western region, the operation will not conclude before 1994. Also included in the operation is Foz do Iguacu Airport, where dogs are being used in an attempt to reduce drug traffic.

Effects of General Strike in Cities Reviewed

PY2305021691

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese at 2300 GMT on 22 May carries 15 minutes of reportage on the nationwide effects of the

48-hour general strike which started today. The strike was called by the United Federation of Workers, CUT, and the General Federation of Workers, CGT.

The announcer begins the reportage stating the 48-hour strike called by the CUT and CGT is a failure and that the strike was neither general nor national. In most of the states the banks, stores, and industries worked normally, while the strike did affect public transport in some cities. The labor force came out against the strike, the announcer notes.

Despite the fact that some private transportation companies and the rail service were working, the lack of public transport caused thousands of vehicles to jam the streets of Sao Paulo, but the city did not stop. Shops opened late, banks worked behind closed doors, and police control was reinforced. The announcer reports that 13 people were arrested but that nine were later released.

In Rio de Janeiro, stores, industries, and banks worked normally, although the bus drivers in the Niteroi District did not allow the buses out of the garages, and they stoned the windows of the buses that did work, or punctured their tires. The announcer reports that with police protection the bus service had returned to normal by midmorning. Furthermore, the station notes that train drivers in Rio have been on strike now for two days, while the port workers turned up at their jobs normally.

According to the announcer, it was a normal day in Porto Alegre despite the actions of groups of strikers who tried to prevent bus drivers from working. Banks worked normally and buses circulated without problems.

In Curitiba, the strike hit universities and the city's largest schools. The strikers occupied the downtown area streets and were able to close some shops, which later opened again.

Very few persons joined the strike in Belo Horizonte, the station reports. Banks and stores were open. Teachers in state-owned and some private schools joined the strike. Fourteen buses were stoned.

The general strike did not alter the routine in Brasilia, where very few people joined the strike, the report points out. Buses circulated normally. Private schools were open but 70 percent of state-owned schools were closed. Brasilia's commerce also had a normal day, and only 10 percent of the bank employees stopped work for an hour.

Of all the Federal Government's organizations, only the employees of the Labor and Social Security Ministry went on strike. However, the ministry's employees did not go on strike because of the general strike; they stopped because the government promised that today it would answer their salary demands, the announcer says.

In Fortaleza very few buses circulated. Public schools did not open, but private schools carried on as usual. Banks worked normally, but the commercial sector was affected.

Buses circulated normally in Recife, and most of the banks and shops opened their doors.

The northern city of Belem woke up without buses, the station reports. The bus drivers strike coincided with the general strike. Only some banks and shops opened. Schools remained closed.

The station further reports that the stoppage was minor in the country's main industrial complex, the Andre-Bernardo-Caetano, ABC, industrial region of Sao Paulo. The factories worked, and the ABC had a tranquil day.

In a recording, Luis Antonio Medeiros, president of the Metalworkers Union, states: "The workers are tired. They were on strike for one full year. It was a just, dignified, and successful strike."

Quoting the Union of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the announcer notes that less than 7 percent of the workers of the affiliated factories joined the strike. According to the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries, the strike was insignificant.

In Sao Paulo, CUT President Jair Meneguelli states: "At no time did we call for a total strike. We have obtained our objective in that there have been demonstrations against this government throughout the country."

Meanwhile, Labor Minister Antonio Rogerio Magri, in a statement recorded in Brasilia, states: "It is my belief that there has been no strike, but now vandalism can have... [changes thought] Now see here today in Sao Paulo a group stopped a bus and shot at it six times. Do you believe that is being on strike?"

Police Chief Authorized To Hire More Personnel

PY2305012091 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Police Chief Romeu Tuma has stressed that the Federal Police has 1,800 vacancies and that President Collor has authorized testing.

He also said that the antinarcotics fight will be accelerated and redoubled throughout the country, especially at border posts and airports.

Tuma has said that in order for the Federal Police to carry out the tasks of fighting drug trafficking and fraud as the government has requested, the organization will need at least 1,800 more men. Tuma also stated that President Collor has already given the green light for the testing to begin in order to take on the personnel before the end of the year.

Tuma guaranteed that the indictments in 600 cases of fraud against social security offices will be sent to Congress.

Tuma, who received the title of citizen of the city of (Porto Chavier), was honored in Santo Angelo, and he had a closed-door meeting with all the representatives of the Federal Police posted in the Rio Grande do Sul State region that borders Uruguay and Argentina.

Government Moves To End Computer Restrictions

PY2205234491 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia
Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 May 91

[Luiz Augusto Mendonca report]

[Text] President Collor has submitted to Congress a draft law guaranteeing the intellectual property and marketing rights of makers of computer programs. Thus, the Brazilian Government has taken the first step to remove restrictions on the computer market.

This means that if Congress passes the draft law, the production and marketing of computers in the country will be free, irrespective of the origin of the computer. The government will thus protect the rights of those producing the computers. These computer programs may be registered at the National Institute of Industrial Property.

The draft law also provides that those violating the rights of makers of computer programs may be punished with jail terms ranging from six months to two years, in addition to a fine.

Economy Minister on Pragmatism, Dialogue, Growth

PY2105190291 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 18 May 91 p 23

[Interview with Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira by O GLOBO correspondents Luis Erlanger and Guilherme Soares in Brasilia; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [O GLOBO]: Although you insist that with the new team only the style will change, there is an impression that the economy will be further liberalized and the country will pull out of the recession and resume accelerated growth. Is this the wrong impression?

[Moreira] Growth resumption and economic liberalization are medium-term objectives; Brazil's economic and social transformation is a long-term expectation; and alleviating the major effects of economic adjustment on the hardest hit sector of the population is a short-term objective. It is important to make it clear that fiscal and monetary adjustment is absolutely essential and that we cannot risk an inflationary surge that will undermine the efforts made so far and jeopardize the objective of resuming growth as rapidly as possible. [passage omitted]

[O GLOBO] One of the outgoing team's dilemmas was that it imposed hard measures that were at odds with the government's need to broaden its congressional basis. Will the new team go easy on Congress?

[Moreira] A permanent and untiring dialogue with Congress is important. It should however be conducted without compromising the immediate goal of not allowing an uncontrolled unfreezing process and not creating inflationary pressures through fiscal and monetary policies. [passage omitted]

[GLOBO] In an interview with O GLOBO, Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello affirmed that growth resumption was the private sector's job. Does the government intend to give a little help now?

[Moreira] The Brazilian economy is very complex. All sectors must cooperate with the adjustment effort first. Then it is important that they cooperate with its consolidation so that growth can be quickly resumed and sustained. It does not help to create the illusion of growth if it cannot be guaranteed by a macroeconomic reality. [passage omitted]

[O GLOBO] You announced that the foreign-debt negotiations will become more pragmatic. Should this be interpreted as an intention to increase concessions to bankers?

[Moreira] We will maintain the position that Brazil cannot make payments through mortgaging its fiscal balance. We will not make debt payments that compromise the balance of payments or investment capacity. We have to find a middle road between what the creditors would like to receive and what we can reasonably pay. Pragmatism refers to trying to accelerate negotiations and to reach a solution as soon as possible to be able to turn this page. After all, the debt is looking to the past and we need to look to future credits. This is very important if we are to resume growth. [passage omitted]

[O GLOBO] Having tried to resolve the economic problems alone, the outgoing economic team concluded that it was impossible to find a way out other than using a political solution. Do you agree?

[Moreira] We have to maintain this continued, determined, firm—I do not mean intransigent—effort to consolidate fiscal and monetary adjustments and to continue the stabilization that will mark the onset of growth resumption. Until then we will try to handle the social situations, like the one created by cholera. Meanwhile, we will try to learn the aspirations of all sectors of society and appeal to their comprehension and cooperation. I believe the time for understanding has come. The countries that have been most successful in taming inflation and restarting development have done so on the basis of well-negotiated agreements among businessmen, workers, political forces, and society. The timing of the president's visit to Spain is symbolic. The Moncloa Pact that steered the transition in Spain is a very interesting example of people determined to seek the common good, without relinquishing their principles.

Controversial Price Freeze Lifted on 100 Products

PY2205180491 Madrid EFE in English 1735 GMT
22 May 91

[Text] Brasilia, May 22 [EFE]—Less than two weeks after the appointment of a new economy minister, Brazil has decided to relax its grip on inflation with the announcement Wednesday that more than 100 products are to be exempted from a controversial across-the-board price freeze.

Economy Secretary Dorothea Werneck said Wednesday that the list of goods—which includes basics such as bread, milk, and butter—was the start of a gradual end to the four-month freeze and would result in a surge of monthly inflation between one and 1.5 percent.

Cleaning products, cakes, alcohol, electric domestic goods, and hotel tariffs are among the other items on the list.

Werneck said the freeze, which has brought monthly inflation down from 20 percent in February to under seven per cent in April, would be over by the end of the year.

The price restrictions were part of a controversial program of economic reform introduced by former Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello to reign in hyperinflation, which was running at an annual 2,750 per cent when President Fernando Collor de Mello took office 14 months ago.

Cardoso, who was criticized for not taking account of the social consequences of her program, resigned two weeks ago and the gradual lifting of the freeze was one of the first new measures suggested by her successor, Marcilio Marques Moreira.

Electoral Court's New Leaders Installed

PY2205234091 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 May 91

[Summary] Justice Sergio Borja was sworn in today as the new president of the Superior Electoral Court, and Paulo Brossard was sworn in as vice president.

*** Labor Unions Compete for Funding Abroad**

91SM0292B Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 21 Apr 91 p 5

[Article by Marco Damiani: "Labor Federations Fight for Money From Abroad"; first paragraph is O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO introduction]

[Text] The Trade Union Force has obtained from European organizations some of the dollars that had been reserved for the CUT [United Federation of Workers].

An agreement involving more than \$2 million is the principal fuel for the drive to make Luiz Antonio de Medeiros' Trade Union Force federation a Social Democratic alternative to the revolutionary bias of Jair Meneguelli's CUT. The agreement in question was signed

a month ago with the UIL (Italian Federation of Trade Unions). Many additional millions of dollars obtained by means of agreements with international organizations are serving to exacerbate the divergent points of view within the Brazilian trade union movement.

The center of these disputes is a place thousands of kilometers distant from any Brazilian factory. It is a building in the city of Brussels, Belgium, and it houses the headquarters of the powerful International Conference of Free Trade Union Organizations (ICFTUO), of Social Democratic orientation. The organization is growing with the speed of a "Formula-1" and the power of a tractor to achieve domination in the world of trade unionism. With a budget larger than the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] of many countries, the ICFTUO has invested heavily in projects developed by the CUT. Medeiros has now received a portion of that investment by virtue of the agreement with the UIL, one of the "front runners" in the Brussels organization. In the future, he could come into possession of the entire investment.

Membership Card

This became a possibility late last year when the ICFTUO decided, during a conference in Japan, to give money only to its affiliated federations. The CUT is an independent federation, and no proposal yet presented for discussion at its next congress—to be held in September—advocates affiliation.

"We have not felt any pressure from the ICFTUO," Jose Olivio Miranda, CUT secretary for trade union policy, insists. "It is clear, however," he says, "that to the extent you become affiliated you cease to be a subject for discussion and become a member of the club." The problem for the CUT is that there is no possibility that the political groups hostile to the majority "Articulation" faction—groups such as the Socialist Convergence and the Rank and File CUT, both of Trotskyite inspiration—will permit affiliation with the social-democratic ICFTUO. "We cannot take action based on Medeiros's plans," Miranda believes. "At the present moment, a hasty discussion of affiliation would bring us more problems than benefits."

The Trade Union Force does not have an ICFTUO membership card either, but does not hide its desire to have one. "In this country it is we, not they, who are the social democrats and believe in the market economy," is Medeiros's message. His plan is to build—this year—the foundations for the Trade Union Force in the principal centers of Brazil, with a view to obtaining unanimous approval of the affiliation proposal at its own convention within 18 months. The agreement signed with the UIL is essential to this project, in that it will provide the federation, over the next three years, approximately \$2 million for a program to train union leaders. "Our federation," Medeiros says, "doesn't need to be the largest, but it should have the ideological unity that the CUT does not possess."

Dollar Hunting

To get the money, Medeiros went to Caracas in February to talk with the leadership of the Catholic-oriented Latin American Workers Federation (CLAT). From Venezuela he flew to Italy, where he was received by Pope John Paul II in an audience arranged by Dom Lucas Moreira Neves. After these activities he went to Brussels, where instead of seeking out the World Federation of Labor (CMT)—which has links to the Catholic Church—he met in that same city with representatives of the ICFTUO.

To close friends and associates, Medeiros recalls that the meeting was tense. "I thought I would not get anything," he acknowledged to one of them. Exchanging gesticulations and loud speech with the heads of the ICFTUO, the leader of Trade Union Force emphasized the argument that it was his organization—not the CUT—that was interested in seeing a negotiated solution to the crisis in Brazil. This was what the ICFTUO wanted to hear. The results of the meeting have left Medeiros in a good mood to this day. He and his traveling companion Jose Ibrahim, secretary for international relations of the Trade Union Force and a man with ties to the PDT [Democratic Worker's Party] of Governor Leonel Brizola, left after the meeting for Rome, where they reportedly finalized the UIL agreement that had only been signed in Sao Paulo on the last day of the convention at which the federation was founded in early March, some days after the "dollar-hunting" trip to Europe.

To counter Medeiros's alliances, the CUT is employing a number of high-powered weapons the most powerful of which is the charisma of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, national president of the PT [Workers Party], who on several occasions has already negotiated agreements in Europe in behalf of the CUT. In Europe, Lula is viewed as a person of stature similar to that of Lech Walesa, who went from the Solidarity federation to the presidency of Poland. Another person of similar stature is Osvaldo Bargas, secretary of international relations.

Bargas's ability to attract funds for the CUT is acknowledged even by its adversaries. He is also known for his ability to prevent the money targeted by his federation from going into other bank accounts. Bargas's appointment book is filled with the names of persons who carry the keys to coffers stuffed with the lire, marks, francs, and pesetas of the European organizations.

On Friday, while Jose Ibrahim of the Trade Union Force was taking part in a meeting sponsored by the ICFTUO in Brussels, Bargas was in China attending a conference on protection of the ecology. Both men could return from these trips with new contacts and ideas for agreements. In union circles it is said that while Medeiros obtained \$2.5 million for his federation for the next three years, Bargas signed a similar agreement—also through the ICFTUO—for \$6 million for the same period.

Chile

Silva Cimma Comments on Relations With Bolivia

PY2305032891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 May 91

[Nelson Oteiza report from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has discounted rumors on tension in the Chilean-Bolivian relations as reported in a statement recently released by the Bolivian Armed Forces.

The document states that Soquimich [Chilean Chemical and Mining Association] must not exploit mineral deposits in Bolivian territory as long as the matter on the Bolivian landlocked situation is not solved.

Silva Cimma said that such statements could have a big or little impact in Bolivia, but that they do not affect Chile.

Concerning the Bolivian Government's pressing request on a sea outlet, Silva Cimma said that Chile has no reason to prevent Bolivia from expressing its position on the matter, adding that Bolivians and Chileans have their own opinions.

In response to a question, Silva Cimma said that he does not believe this situation could cause tension in the relations between the two countries. We have held continuous and harmonious talks with Bolivian authorities this year and we will continue to do so. Silva Cimma also said that there is no news on the case of the Argentine border police officer who murdered a Chilean peasant in the ninth region.

Finally, the minister reported that at the request of the United Nations a group of Chilean Carabineros will act as observers in a plebiscite to be carried out in the former Spanish Sahara.

New Supreme Court President Installed 20 May

PY2305003091 Santiago Television Nacional
de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] On 21 May, Enrique Correa Labra was installed as Supreme Court president. Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido congratulated Correa Labra. The minister added that relations between the judicial branch and the government will be cordial despite any differences.

Enrique Correa arrived at the court at 1400 this afternoon to officially take over as president of the Supreme Court. In a short and cordial dialogue with the media, Correa said that one of his first decisions will be to order the opening of all building doors. In his office, Correa received the protocol greetings of Court of Appeals judges and of Senators Beltran Urenda, Arturo Alessandri Besa, and Olga Feliu.

Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido visited him shortly afterward. After the meeting, which lasted some 15 minutes, Cumplido made the following remarks:

[Begin Cumplido recording] I have maintained very good personal relations with Justice Enrique Correa for a long time. I have great respect for him. He was the only Supreme Court justice who supported the validity of the writ of amparo during the states of emergency. Sometimes you forget things. He deserves my respect. Besides, he has shown his independence from governments. I think we will maintain very good relations. [end recording]

Enrique Correa also received Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange in his office. Stange presented his greetings to the Supreme Court president.

Colombia

Gaviria Affirms Guarantees for Pablo Escobar

PA2205015291 Mexico City NOTIMEX
in Spanish 2207 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 21 May (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian Government is willing to provide all the security guarantees to drug trafficker Pablo Escobar so he can turn himself in to Colombian justice, President Cesar Gaviria said here today.

Meanwhile, Father Rafael Garcia Herreros, who worked out the release of journalists Francisco Santos and Maruja Pachon with the chief of the Medellin Cartel, traveled to Antioquia Department today to meet with Escobar again.

Herreros said he will talk to the drug trafficker about the results of the meeting he held with the Colombian president yesterday.

Upon his arrival in Medellin, the journalists asked the priest if he was willing to take Escobar to the prison gates. "Yes, of course, even to the gates of heaven," Garcia Herreros replied.

Meanwhile, the Colombian president said he shares in the national joy concerning the release of journalists Francisco Santos and Maruja Pachon yesterday and said he now expects the drug traffickers to turn themselves over to Colombian justice.

The Colombian president issued decrees between September and November 1990 guaranteeing nonextradition and a reduction of the sentence for drug traffickers who voluntarily turn themselves in to Colombian justice.

The president said that the surrendering of Pablo Escobar "is not up to the government, but we are willing to offer him all guarantees."

In the meeting held several weeks ago between the drug trafficker and Garcia Herreros, Escobar expressed his concern about the safety conditions that would surround his confinement.

Escobar said he is willing to turn himself in to Colombian justice as long as he is sent to the prison in Envigado, a town close to Medellin, and as long as his custody is supervised by Army personnel and an international Red Cross commission.

Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel said today that the Colombian Government is willing to accept the requests made by the drug trafficker.

Pablo Escobar Gaviria fears that once he turns himself in, he would be at the mercy of his powerful enemies, which include state security bodies themselves, the Cali Cartel chiefs, and Henry Perez, the leader of paramilitary groups in the Middle Magdalena region.

Escobar To Surrender 'In 15 Days'

PA2205032491 Paris AFP in Spanish 0245 GMT
22 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 21 May (AFP)—Father Rafael Garcia Herreros, who met today with Pablo Escobar, the Medellin Cartel kingpin and the most wanted drug trafficker in the world, announced that Escobar will turn himself over to Colombian justice in 15 days.

In statements to the RCN radio network, after returning from a quick visit to that city, the priest, who yesterday secured the release of two journalists held hostage by the drug mafia, added that "several other people" will surrender along with Escobar.

Government Outlines Strategy Against Violence

PA2305030091 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The government revealed today its national strategy against violence. The strategy is made up of five basic points:

1. The governors and mayors will prepare regional security programs.
2. The justice system will be strengthened.
3. Negotiations will be established with guerrilla groups to persuade them to surrender their weapons.
4. Greater resources will be devoted to combatting violence.
5. Human rights will be protected.

Some points of the strategy are already under way. In any event, this strategy will be adjusted to meet the changes called for in the new constitution.

The objective of the strategy is to have only the Army and the police armed. Today, the weapons and administration of justice are in the hands of common and organized criminals. Common criminals committed 80 of the 100 murders that took place last year. Therefore,

there will be a revision of the laws on bearing arms, including the permits that have been granted.

Since the exclusive use of force will again be placed under the authority of the Army and police, the government will make the defense and protection of human rights a priority so that arrest warrants will not mean execution.

Indeed, there will be changes in the services and intelligence systems of all state security agencies. Let us listen to Rafael Pardo, security adviser.

[Begin Pardo recording] We are trying to strengthen internal self-control mechanisms, as well as educate about human rights. This strategy will address establishing better records for arrested individuals, thus permitting agencies such as the International Red Cross to request information from the detention centers. [end recording]

With respect to the guerrilla violence, the objective of the strategy is to have the insurgent groups disarm.

Report on Approved Constitutional Amendments

PA2305022591

[Editorial Report] Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 16 May on pages 1A, and 3A carries a 1,500-word report on the draft constitutional amendments approved by the five constituent assembly commissions and which are contained in the 400 articles to be discussed by the plenary of the assembly.

In summarizing the main subjects studied by each commission, the report says that "the first commission approved the institutionalization of parties, the creation of a statute of the opposition, and the reorganization of the electoral system, which will be autonomous."

The report adds that "the second commission approved the election of governors by direct vote and eliminated the departmental assemblies, which will become departmental councils and will have new functions."

The third commission "approved a strict public employee statute, which, among other things, ends nepotism in all government positions."

The fourth commission "assigned the selection of the attorney general to the president of the republic. He will be chosen from a list of candidates to be sent by the Higher Council for the Administration of Justice. The list itself will come from competing notaries."

The report says, regarding the opposition statute, that the article approved the "right and guarantee of political parties and movements not participating in the government to offer criticism and propose political alternatives." The same article says that political organizations "will have access to state-run mass communications media in accordance with the representation obtained in parliamentary elections," and will also have a right to reply to public attacks through the media.

The report also notes that the third commission is maintaining the three government branches and calling for the electoral office, attorney general, and comptroller general "to be independent and autonomous."

The same source on page 6A carries a 500-word report that says that the constituent assembly's commission for justice affairs decided that "the attorney general, the highest authority in the struggle against drug trafficking, will be designated by the president of the republic, for a five-year period, from a list of candidates presented to him by the Higher Council for the Administration of Justice." It was also determined that the Administrative Department of Security, DAS, and the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations, Dijin, will be under the jurisdiction of the attorney general.

Minister Confirms Discovery of 'Light Fuels'

PA2305022691 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO
in Spanish 16 May 91 p 21

[Text] A group of European oil enterprises have found a new oil well that could be larger than the Cano Limon well. The well was found in an area known as Cusiana, in Casanare Intendency.

Mines and Energy Minister Luis Fernando Vergara has confirmed the finding and explained that this well contains natural gas mixed with condensed light fuels such as gasoline, kerosene, hexane, and cyclohexane, all of which can be obtained from the same distillery derrick.

These condensed light fuels are more valuable than the crude itself because of their optimal utilization, according to the minister.

Minister Vergara made the announcement to journalists after the inauguration of the National Electric Energy Campaign.

The well is located in a piedmont plain very close to an area where other oil enterprises had explored to a depth of 6,000 feet without positive results.

The drill has now reached the 18,000-foot mark with results that the government has described as satisfactory.

In confirming the report, the minister said: "Something very important and promising is down there."

The consortium that discovered the well is composed of the British firms Triton and British Petroleum and the French firm Total. The three are associated with the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL].

According to information from the companies involved, this is a 2 billion-barrel well, and, because of this, there is international expectation to the point that the share value of these companies on the New York stock market has risen from \$6 to \$16.

Seismological research is also being conducted to present a complete report on a discovery that could serve to clear up the uncertainty about Colombia's hydrocarbon reserves.

The real potential of the well might not be known until the end of the year, but according to oil engineers, the marketing of its products will be easier than that involving crude. The country, however, does not yet have the suitable infrastructure for the rapid development of the well.

Minister Vergara has also confirmed that the heavy crude well of Campo Rubiales, on the border between the department of Meta and the region of Vichada, is performing as expected. According to figures provided by Ecopetrol, this field contains 150 million barrels of heavy crude oil.

Ecuador

Spanish Foreign Minister Comments on Gandhi

PA2305014791 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish
2300 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez has expressed deep regret over the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, saying that the world has lost a great politician.

[Begin Fernandez-Ordonez recording] I knew former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He had visited Madrid. There are two things that concern me. The first is the democratic instability in India. India is a great democratic country, and a large country in any case. Therefore, any kind of instability is always a cause for concern. We are convinced, however, that India will overcome this horrible incident. Second, and undoubtedly, a great politician has been lost and it will be very difficult to replace him. [end recording]

After ending an official three-day visit today, the Spanish foreign minister departed for La Paz, Bolivia. During his stay in Quito, Fernandez-Ordonez met with President Rodrigo Borja, Vice President Luis Parodi, and Congress President Edelberto Bonilla. He also held working meetings with his colleague Diego Cordovez, with whom he signed bilateral cooperation and commercial exchange agreements.

Paraguay

Rodriguez on Elections; Minister on Reshuffle

PY2305030491 Asuncion RPC Television Network
in Spanish 0045 GMT 23 May 91

[Felix Ferreira report]

[Excerpts] General and Mrs. Andres Rodriguez today headed the inauguration of the Villa Hayes municipal building in Villa Hayes. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, Villa Hayes Mayor Mario Rodolfo Meza said that this government has done more than any other Paraguayan Government in this century. He also said that Andres Rodriguez should accept re-election for another presidential term to consolidate Paraguayan democracy.

This is the first time that Gen. Rodriguez's re-election has been called for during an official ceremony. It must be noted that on several occasions, the chief of state has expressed his commitment to hand over the government in 1993.

Asked about this, Rodriguez said he will adhere to his commitment:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Up to now I have been loyal to my commitment. This is what I have promised to do.

[First reporter] But are you annoyed by these repeated requests....

[Rodriguez interrupting] No, why should I be annoyed by an expression of goodwill made by a fellow citizen? Not at all. I deeply appreciate that at least someone believes I may accept another term in office.

[Second reporter] Mr. President, the municipal elections that were scheduled for 26 May have been suspended in 42 or 43 towns. There are rumors stating that you will sign a decree in this regard. Is this so? Do you agree with suspending the municipal elections in these towns?

[Rodriguez] I would urge the media not to confuse our fellow Paraguayans so that they may participate in the elections. There have been many contradictory reports in this regard.

At this time, there are only 13, 13 towns [repeats himself]—although I do not like to mention this number because some believe it brings bad luck—which are experiencing small problems.

I personally believe that there is sufficient time—perhaps tomorrow, which is the last day—to do something so that municipal elections may be held in all towns.

I believe that by doing so we will not undermine the objective of holding clean and transparent elections. This is why I sincerely believe that journalists should truthfully inform the voters of their duties and obligations—where they should vote—and not confuse them. [end recording]

Commenting on the statement by the Villa Hayes mayor, who called for President Andres Rodriguez's re-election, Education Minister Angel Roberto Seifart said the following:

[Begin recording] [Seifart] I think it is all very well. It is what the Villa Hayes mayor thinks. It is up to Gen. Rodriguez to decide.

I would only add that this will be on the condition that he requests his retirement. Furthermore, I believe a constitutional amendment will be proposed in this regard.

[Ferreira] Is this the only condition?

[Seifart] I am speaking for myself. This is a personal view.

[Ferreira] Would you support Rodriguez's re-election?

[Seifart] I believe that he meets all the requirements. He is heading an excellent transition government, and he deserves our confidence. At least I believe the Colorado Party will not be opposed to this.

[Ferreira] There are rumors that you will be appointed interior minister, that the current interior minister will be appointed defense minister, and that the current defense minister will be appointed ambassador. Are these rumors true?

[Seifart] No, I am not aware of this. I believe these rumors are unfounded. [end recording]

Electoral Board Suspends Elections in 42 Towns

PY2305023091 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0045 GMT 23 May 91

[Jamily Arika report]

[Excerpts] The Central Electoral Board [JEC] has suspended the municipal elections in 42 towns in the interior of the country. However, the JEC has confirmed that municipal elections, which are scheduled for 26 May, will be held in the cities of Lambare and Fernando de la Mora.

The JEC made this decision because the regional JEC boards throughout the country have concluded that it is impossible to hold municipal elections in view of the lack of time to print the ballots and the registration lists and to distribute all the materials needed to hold the elections.

Therefore, municipal elections have been suspended in the following towns:

Troche, Eugenio A. Garay, Tebicuary-mi, San Antonio, Villa Hayes, Itacurubi de la Cordillera, Maciel, Chore, Pirayu, San Estanislao, Emboscada, La Colmena, Roque Alonso, Ita, San Bernardino, Limpio, San Lorenzo, Capiata, Arroyos y Esteros, Aregua, Mayor Martinez, Roque Gonzalez, Achay, Luque, San Juan del Parana, Trinidad, Capitan Meza, Concepcion, Loreto, Mbocayaty, Santa Elena, Juan de Mena, Felix Perez Cardozo, San Juan Nepunoceno, Obligado, Qiindy, Carapegua, Villeta, Itaugua, Laureles, Corpus Christi, and La Victoria.

JEC President Jose Luis Ibarra Llano explains the reasons for suspending the municipal elections in these towns:

[Begin Ibarra Llano recording] In the majority of cases, it is because there are pending cases in the electoral court

or because the cases have been appealed before the Supreme Court. In other instances, it is because the regional electoral boards did not submit the materials at the proper time so that the ballots cannot be printed on time. This is the case of Chore.

It has also been decided to suspend municipal elections in those cases in which political parties have issued writs of amparo to question the candidacies of their opponents. [end recording]

Ibarra Llano also admitted that the Colorado Party is to blame for the suspension of the municipal elections because it had requested that Congress extend the registration deadline for holding internal party elections. [passage omitted]

It must noted that the JEC will brief the executive branch of its decision so that it will call new elections in these towns. According to Ibarra Llano and to the electoral code, elections will be called for 26 June.

Peru

Fujimori Sends Condolences to Indian Government

PY2205165691 Lima RTP Television Network
in Spanish 0230 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori sent a message of condolence today to his Indian counterpart Ramaswamy Venkataraman. The message says:

With profound grief, I learned from the media of the despicable murder of Rajiv Gandhi. He was an outstanding leader of Indian democracy. On behalf of the Peruvian people and government, I deplore this tragedy that has plunged the Indian people into mourning because of the untimely disappearance of a leader whose courageous devotion to India represents an irreparable loss.

Soviet Trawlers 'Cannot Leave' With Catch

PY2205155691 Lima RTP Television Network
in Spanish 0230 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] Fisheries Minister Felix Canal said today that the Soviet trawlers cannot leave the country until they return the fish caught after their operations were terminated. He added that they will be heavily fined for not fulfilling the agreement.

[Begin Canal recording] I personally do not believe that the Soviets suffered economically. The Soviet firm has sold fish worth more than \$1.5 billion in the last three years according to international reports. The Soviet Union is the largest world fishing power, handling more than 12 million tons of fish throughout the world. It seems unlikely to me that they would suffer economically because there are more than 200 Soviet ships off our coasts and they coordinate with the 20 ships that were fishing in our territorial waters. Therefore, I doubt

they would suffer losses. I believe they have made good profits, which unfortunately we were not able to share with them. [end recording]

Fujimori Vows To End Chaos at Universities

PY2205130091 Lima RTP Television Network
in Spanish 0230 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori announced today that he will end the chaos at universities and will impose order and discipline. He added that university facilities will be cleaned and painted.

Fujimori held a news conference at Government House.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] We have to admit that there are situations in some universities that cannot be considered appropriate for an educational center. There is a climate of violence imposed by small subversive groups. This can clearly be seen. The university facilities look more like jails than university classrooms.

This is why my government has made the decision to support the university officials, to support the new ideas of the university students to correct this situation through means that are not available to the universities. This is why we must first recover the image of the universities. Today an Army squad will paint the outer walls of the university, and in the following days this team will take out [words indistinct]. Naturally we will not only restrict our actions to this aspect. We are also going to give the universities the support they deserve. Therefore, [words indistinct] we have assigned the modest sum of \$800,000 to rebuild the sports arena, which has not been used for many years.

We hope [words indistinct] as we have observed that the great majority [words indistinct] solutions from the government. There are about 35,000 to 38,000 students studying at San Marcos University. This morning there was a small demonstration of no more than 150 overexcited students, [words indistinct] to fulfill the objective of recovering the order and the proper environment of the university.

[Unidentified reporter] What will your government do to eliminate violence in the universities such [words indistinct] San Marcos [words indistinct], the fact that groups have infiltrated. What will your government do?

[Fujimori] This morning you were able to see that groups have infiltrated the university. Of course, they are not students because a university student does not go to class carrying sticks of dynamite. He carries a textbook. Therefore, I cannot call those people students. We have to eradicate, remove the presence of these subversive groups that are challenging the autonomy of the university. As things stand, there is no freedom of expression in universities because the majority of students and teachers live under threats. [end recording]

Army Surrounds University, Police Raid Campus

PY2205214391 Lima RTP Television Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] In a surprise operation, the Peruvian Army surrounded San Marcos University early this morning, while specialized personnel of the National Police entered the university campus and took down flags with the hammer and sickle and deactivated explosive devices.

Early this morning, members of the Army were posted at strategic locations around San Marcos University, and a special commando of the National Police entered the campus to take down Shining Path flags. Several explosive devices were also found, and they were deactivated where they were found.

It must be pointed out that the Peruvian Army also mobilized armored cars, and it seems that the Army is also preventing the university walls, which it repainted this morning, from again becoming murals containing the slogans of terrorist movements that operate on the university campus.

Shining Path Members Kill Australian Nun

PY2205232091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2050 GMT
22 May 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 22 May (EFE)—Police sources have reported that an Australian nun and four officials of the town of Huasahuasi, Junin Department, in Peru's central mountains, were killed on 22 May by alleged "Shining Path" terrorists.

This is the first time in their 11 years of violence that the terrorists have killed a foreign nun.

The sources added that about 80 terrorists arrived in three trucks and carried their victims, including the nun, who was identified as Sister Irene Teresa Marconi, to the town's main square. After subjecting their victims to a "people's trial," the terrorists killed them.

Among the victims are Noe Palacios, president of the Huasahuasi community; Pedro Pando, a representative of the so-called "peasant defense patrols" that are confronting the "Shining Path;" teacher Alfredo Montes; and former Deputy Mayor Agustin Bento.

The police sources have indicated that the terrorists threw explosives at their victims, whose remains were spread within a 20-meter radius.

According to radio reports from Tarma, the capital of Tarma Province, about 40 km from Huasahuasi, in addition to the killings, the "Shining Path" blew up several government service company buildings. [passage omitted]

Food Donations Rotting at Port of El Callao

PY2305001291 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru
Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 May 91

[Vincent Nobles report from the port of El Callao]

[Text] Despite the many media denouncements about food donations that are abandoned in the port of El Callao, the organizations who benefit from these donations have not appeared to pick them up. According to ENAP [National Ports Enterprise] officials, beside rotting daily, these food donations are also creating a space problem at the port.

*** Supreme Court President Comments on Penal Code**

91SM0295D Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
18 Apr 91 p A3

[Excerpt] "The new Penal Code needs to be reformed in order to eliminate some errors before it takes effect. Still, we can not deny that it has many good points," said the Supreme Court president, Dr. Cesar Fernandez Arce.

As an example, the head of the Judiciary thinks that penalties for drug trafficking and assaults against persons, life and health "should be more severe."

"We all have the right to life, and this right must be respected. I believe it is essential for the new penal code to incorporate this precept and increase prison terms for people who kill their fellow human beings."

He felt that the jail terms punishing those crimes are quite mild. "We need to take steps to correct this. And let us not also forget that judges need time to study the new standards, as the Penal Code should take effect quite soon."

On the subject of drug trafficking, he criticized the fact that the new legal document punishes the peasant grower. Dr. Fernandez Arce does not agree with this.

"This contradicts the new ideas about supporting coca crop replacement programs," he noted.

He spoke of the misnamed abortion for personal reasons, saying that penalties are extremely limited for persons responsible for the death of a human being before birth. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

PIT-CNT 24-Hour General Strike Under Way

PY2205120491 Montevideo Radio Carve
in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 May 91

[Text] A 24-hour general strike called by the PIT-CNT [Interunion Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers] workers federation against the salary and privatizations policy supported by the government will end at midnight.

Carlos Cat, labor and social security minister, has described the strike as unfair, political, and groundless, but refused to comment on the strike's effectiveness.

The PIT-CNT called the strike based on a platform that includes the rejection of the 18-percent salary increases decreed for public servants, their opposition to the projected state reform, and their solidarity with the trade unions in conflict.

Suriname

Nation Plans To Open Embassy in Beijing

*PY2105141891 Paramaribo Radio Suriname
International in English 1730 GMT 20 May 91*

[Text] The People's Republic of China has given permission to Suriname to open an embassy in Beijing. This is contained in a diplomatic note that was received by the Surinamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Chinese Government [words indistinct] note that it believed the ties of friendship between both countries will further be

strengthened and developed by opening a Surinamese embassy in China. It isn't yet known when the embassy in Beijing will be opened. Foreign Affairs Minister Robby Ramlakhan had earlier, while explaining his policy, announced the government is taking measures to strengthen relations with countries in the Far East.

Japan To Send Observers to 26 May Elections

*PY2305003891 Paramaribo Radio Suriname
International in English 1730 GMT 22 May 91*

[Text] The Government of Japan has announced that it will send observers to Suriname to monitor the elections this coming Sunday. The [words indistinct] that the Japanese Government is supporting the tendencies for democracy in the region, and the [words indistinct] democracy and civilization. On the basis of this, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and one from the Japanese Embassy in Venezuela will be sent to Suriname to observe the elections, according to press news from the Japanese Government.